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# COTTON MANUFACTURE IN ALABAMA TO 1865

By

RICHARD W. GRIFFIN\*

The census of 1810 reported the existence of 22 cotton factories, however, small, in the Mississippi Territory; of these, some must have been in the region of Alabama.<sup>1</sup> However, it was not until 1822 that real interest began to develop in cotton manufacture on significant scale. In that year the Huntsville *Democrat*, discussing the rapid increase in the production of cotton in Tennessee river valley, suggested the need for the manufacture of cotton bagging. The editor recommended that this be done either in private homes or in a factory to be established by local citizens. There were several advantages in such a plan: it would render Alabama planters independent of Kentucky hemp growers and manufacturers; the owners of such a mill would find it a profitable investment; and a factory would create a demand for refuse cotton and last pickings which were too poor to be exported profitably.<sup>2</sup> A few years later a second editor in Huntsville revived the question, urging that negro cloth as well as bagging could be profitably manufactured.<sup>3</sup>

In the autumn of 1827 the editor of the *Kentucky Reporter* chided the citizens of Mobile for their desire to destroy the infant hemp and cotton industry by opposition to the protective tariff. The Jacksonian Democrats of Mobile were evidently not united in this anti-tariff policy, for the meeting resulted in "some bitter debate" before the resolutions were carried. The resolutions provided "that all duties except such as may be necessary for revenue, or for the purpose of advancing the interest of some of the U. S. at the expense of the rest, particularly in the articles of *Hemp, Cotton-bagging*, and cotton goods, was unjust . . . and oppresssive to the Southern Atlantic states, . . . and . . . should be repealed." The editor of the *Reporter*, convinced that Jackson

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aimed at the destruction of the American System, suggested that his Alabama adherents had better wait until he was elected before attacking domestic industry.\*

The tariff objections were heightened by the passage of the "Tariff of Abominations" in 1828. Fortunately cooler heads prevailed in Alabama than in South Carolina. Governor Murphey, in his message to the Alabama Legislature, said that the only legal redress of the state was to present a strong memorial of protest to Congress. In addition, he urged Alabamans to be economic in domestic affairs, and to encourage citizens of the state to build manufactories.

Joseph Gales, North Carolinian and editor of the *National Intelligencer*, commended this conciliatory message, saying that all the South need do was apply their superior advantages for manufacture of cotton and they would be able to undersell all other parts of the Union. This would have such effect on the Middle and Western States that they would be "not only eager to repeal the tariff, but be the foremost to have inserted in the Federal Constitution, a clause restraining Congress to the imposition of duties upon imports for the purpose of revenue only."

The Tennessee valley was admirably suited, by virtue of its vast water power, for the introduction of manufactures. It is evident that there were well-formulated plans to build a cotton mill in this area before the passage of the tariff. The Hobbs brothers of Athens began building a small spinning factory in conjunction with their grist and saw mill in the autumn of 1827. This mill was built on Swann creek, half way between Athens and Mooresville in Limestone county. The water power here was not sufficient for the cotton mill and the proprietors installed a 42 horse-power steam engine, built at Wheeling, Virginia, under the direction of H. H. Hobbs. The throstle-frames and power-looms for the factory were purchased by an agent near Providence, Rhode Island. Because of the inexperience of the owners and laborers the yarn was coarse, but it was claimed that the cloth, although not as smooth as Northern fabrics, was more durable.

The brothers employed negro slaves—sixteen adults and children—who were trained in all the departments of the mill. Slaves were employed at the looms, spindles, and even as engineers for the steam engine. Mr. Hobbs reported that they learned as easily as the poor whites. The most difficult problem of the proprietors, due to the current opinion in the North that Alabama's climate was unhealthy, was to secure a trained superintendent at a reasonable salary.

The brothers Hobbs, in conjunction with the Crenshaw Brass and Iron Foundry which was located in their neighborhood, proposed to stimulate the manufacture of cotton in the state by the manufacture of cotton mill machinery. The editor of the *Democrat* urged people to visit Hobbs' Fulton Factory; and, in referring to the cost of the mill, said that above all "we sincerely hope that a liberal public will not be withholding a well timed, and (we will add) a *well-merited* patronage, permit it to have been expended in vain."<sup>6</sup>

The 1830's and '40's were productive of increasing interest in the manufacture of cotton in this region. By 1849 almost every county in the valley had one or more cotton factories in operation.<sup>7</sup> In 1842 the Huntsville *Herald* reported that several bagging and rope factories were being built in Jackson county, and that there were four cotton factories in operation in Madison county alone.<sup>8</sup>

The development of the cotton textile industry was not without its setbacks, for in 1840 and 1844 two of the most extensive mills in North Alabama were destroyed. Fire was one of the constant dangers of these primitive factories. The Bell Factory of Patton, Donegan and Company, in Madison county, was burned with a loss of \$40,000 with only \$20,000 insurance.<sup>9</sup> The Globe Factory of Martin and Cassity, near Florence, described as one of the most extensive in the South, was destroyed with an uninsured loss of \$15,000. "It supplied a large portion of the country with the best cotton fabrics, and afforded employment to nearly one hundred and fifty persons, who had no better dependence for their subsistence."<sup>10</sup> Fortunately, the owners of

both these mills had the energy and capital to rebuild their mills for the benefit of community, labor, and themselves.

In 1848 James A. Patterson of Decatur offered his large factory for sale. This mill was only two years old when it was offered for sale, and the operating 924 spindles and 27 looms. The factory was in a frame building 82 by 36 feet, with an engine and drying house attached. The engine was of 25 horse-power; all the mill machinery had been manufactured by Rogers, Ketchum and Grovesnor of Paterson, New Jersey.

Patterson reported that "the mill is now in operation and doing well, and would not have been thus offered for sale, had I the means and ability to carry on such an extensive establishment." The mill, he said, would clear \$15,000 the first year; although the cost had been \$18,000, he set the sale price at only \$22,000, offering to accept good land and young negroes as payment.<sup>11</sup>

The destruction of a cotton mill in DeKalb county gives some idea of the variety of activities of early proprietors. J. R. and G. W. Smedley suffered the loss of their investment—"consisting of a factory, Grist Mill and Cotton Gin, with 40 or 50,000 lbs. of cotton, cash and books, \$150 worth of medicine, Post Office books, cash received in Justice of Peace' office, &c." Thus a few hours saw the destruction of this industry and public service establishment after less than a years' operation.<sup>12</sup>

The cotton mills along the Tennessee river were, by 1850, in a flourishing condition. The Bell Factory was reported to be producing a variety of plain and colored goods including cotton-ades, gingham, checks, and osnaburgs. These products were judged to compare favorably in durability and quality with those from the North. The Globe Factory was earning large profits for its proprietors. This mill operated 1,600 spindles and 46 looms, upon which 80,000 yards of cloth were produced weekly. Not only were the existing factories producing at peak capacity, but a new mill to consume 2,000 bales of cotton annually was in process of construction.<sup>13</sup> In this year the Bell, Globe, and Deca-

tur Factories were running 5,500 spindles.<sup>14</sup>

Two years before the outbreak of the Civil War the prosperity and success of the Bell and Globe Factories was noted by a national journal. The Bell Mill was operated entirely by slave labor and represented a capital investment of \$400,000 in its buildings, machinery, and operatives. In Florence, Martin, Weakly, and Company were so successful that by 1858 they had three mills operating, running 23,000 spindles and providing a livelihood to 800 persons. In 1855 the three factories of the Globe Company earned 50 per cent on the invested capital.<sup>15</sup>

These three valuable mills were burned by Federal invaders in 1862 and 1863, the valley having been open to attack early in the war. When Robert Somers visited Florence in 1871 all that remained were blackened and crumbling walls and burned twisted machinery scattered around. He described what was to him the unaccountable action of the Yankee armies. "They destroyed instantly and without remorse every cotton factory within their reach, and one can hardly harmonize the pure anti-slavery professions of the war party in the North with depredations so systematically directed against establishments employing only free labor."<sup>16</sup> It took many years for the valley cotton industry to recover from the horrors of the War and Reconstruction.

Interestingly, the black belt region was as fertile a location for cotton manufactories as the Tennessee valley. A whole group of counties from Tuscaloosa in the west to Tallapoosa in the east became centers for cotton factories.<sup>17</sup> This was doubtless due to the water of the Warrior, Cahaba, Alabama, Coosa, and Tallapoosa rivers, as well as to many smaller creeks in the region.

The pioneer cotton manufacturer in the black belt was David Scott of Tuscaloosa, who took over the management of the factory of the Tuscaloosa Manufacturing Company shortly after its establishment in 1834. The original owners from Centreville invested \$40,000 and planned not only to manufacture cotton, but to buy seed cotton and extract from it the oil.<sup>18</sup> This company was chartered by the state legislature, to be located in Bibb county.

After David Scott assumed the management and majority of the stock, the village became known as Scottsville. A Tuscaloosa editor visited this establishment in 1838 and reported on the activities of the company. He found the factory a large three-story brick building where twenty white, men, women, and children were employed, operating with skill the 800 spindles. These hands were drawn from the poor white class living in the neighborhood and were said to be happy with their work. They manufactured 430 dozen spools of thread, whose quality was judged as excellent by a local woman, saying "that she wove 30 yards of it without breaking a thread."

In addition to the factory the company, as was common with many mills, operated a grist and saw mill. These additional enterprises drew customers and made it possible to trade yarns for other salable products. This company at that time was contemplating the introduction of looms. The owners reported that profits were flattering and "sales brisk."<sup>19</sup>

By 1845 the company had invested \$70,000 in this plant, operating 1,300 spindles and 24 looms and giving employment to 45 hands. The weekly product was 4,500 yards of negro cloth, consuming 400 bales of cotton annually. David Scott was noted for his success with this mill, which always paid a dividend of 15 per cent, while in some years it rose to as much as 33 per cent. The company was so prosperous that it increased the capital stock to \$100,000 in order to purchase more machinery.<sup>20</sup> In 1850 it began to ship some of its products to the Boston market to enter world trade.<sup>21</sup>

On the eve of the War the Scottsville Mill had become one of the most extensive cotton manufactories in the South. By 1858 the original mill had been enlarged by the addition of two wings, and was operating 25,000 spindles and 50 looms. Beginning in 1841 the management had begun to purchase slaves with part of its earnings. The original slave family purchased for \$2,200 had, by natural increase and rising slave prices, increased in value to \$10,000. The company owned 3,000 acres of land, and on it a flourishing village made up of workers' houses, a

hotel, company store, shoe shop, a church, and resident blacksmith, carpenter, and wheelwright. At the outbreak of the war the stock of the Scottville Mill was selling above its par value.<sup>22</sup>

In 1842 a group of Tuscaloosa citizens received a charter as the Warrior Manufacturing Company. This company proposed to build at a convenient water power site on the Black Warrior river a large cotton factory as a means of proving the "expediency of such investment of capital in the Southwest."<sup>23</sup> The *National Intelligencer*, taking note of the formation of this company, claimed there was sufficient coal in Tuscaloosa county to operate all the mills in the United States. Joseph Gales predicted that Tuscaloosa would become the Lowell of the South.<sup>24</sup>

The factory of Marks and Barnett on the Tallapoosa river, having exhausted the local market for its cotton yarns, was in 1845 shipping surpluses to the North for sale. The *Montgomery Independent* applauded them for contributing to the export trade of Alabama, for increasing the value of cotton by manufacture, and especially for increasing the wealth of the state. This editor looked forward to the day when the state would be furnished all its requirements of cotton fabrics by the mills of Alabama, saying in conclusion that "this is the true, safe and effective remedy against all oppression of the tariff, real or imaginary."<sup>25</sup>

Wetumpka, once Alabama's capital, was also stirred by the promotional efforts of the 1840's. The editor of the *Whig* announced that a prominent cotton manufacturer from Petersburg, Virginia, was on his way to Wetumpka to survey the falls of the Ccosa as a possible site for a cotton mill. This led the editor to rhapsodize as he predicted that "there can be little doubt that within ten years, the West Bank will be lined with Factories. The water power is almost illimitable, . . ."<sup>26</sup> \*

\*Wetumpka was never the State Capital (Ed)

The *Tuscaloosa Monitor* (Perhaps as a promotional device) reported in 1847 that there were eighteen cotton factories in the state, whose capital investment was a million and a half dollars, paying annual dividends from 18 to 24 per cent.<sup>27</sup>



By the late 1840's many planters had become desperate over the continuing downward spiral of cotton prices. One planter wrote the *Alabama Planter*, saying: "cotton raising is a rather uncertain and unprofitable calling. It is a little like gold digging, delusive: yet I do not know what else to engage in, unless I build a factory." His hope was that some one with capital would join him in using water power site he owned. In his opinion such a factory would pay for itself in a year and a half.<sup>28</sup>

In neighboring Autauga county there was much more action and fewer predictions. Daniel Pratt was the pioneer manufacturer in that area, building a large cotton gin manufactory in 1834. In 1846 the cotton mill fever hit Prattville, as it was doing all over the South. Pratt built a factory of 3,000 spindles at a cost of \$40,000. The labor for the mill came from the poor white families of Autauga county, who were furnished homes in the company village at small rent. The average wages paid to the two hundred men, women, and children of Prattville Factory was eight dollars a month.

Prattville contained two schools for the children of the workers, a Methodist and Baptist church, several stores, and a physician. There was even talk of establishing a newspaper in this village.<sup>29</sup> By 1851 the mill and village had been expanded until there were "three churches, two schools, four stores, a carriage-shop, two smith-shops, and about sixty-five dwellings." The village had eight hundred inhabitants, with almost every family having a member employed in one of the Pratt enterprises. Elevation of the people, and development of their moral character, was the concern of Daniel Pratt. Schools and churches were one element of control, while the legislature provided another by enacting a law forbidding the sale of ardent spirits within two miles of the village.<sup>30</sup>

A second factory in this county was established in 1849, and showed promise of becoming "one of the *heaviest* manufacturing counties in the State." This mill was located on Swift creek at the new village of Autaugaville. The owners of the mill invested \$100,000 in building a large brick building and furnishing it with



3,500 spindles and 100 looms. The factory was almost ready for operation in the autumn of 1849, with forty dwellings for the workers completed.<sup>31</sup> This mill manufactured osnaburgs, sheeting, thread, and yarn. There were at first 81 employees—mostly women—and it was reported that as soon as the equipment was all in place the total work force would be increased to 110 men, women, and children. Two years later these early predictions were satisfied.

Autuagaville has grown up in the woods during two years past. It now has a population of 350 souls—four mercantile establishments—two churches, and a third is soon to be built, and two good schools.<sup>32</sup>

The *Mobile Tribune*, soon after operations had begun, noted that the factory was in full operation, and that this and other mills in Alabama, Georgia, and Virginia “now supply the bulk of the negro osnaburgs and unbleached cotton goods required for the planting states.” The editor was cheered by such developments, which promised the South release from Northern bondage as far as these products were concerned, and at the same time held equal promise for the Southern manufacturer with regard to the finer manufactured textiles.<sup>33</sup> A third factory, to be located a mile and a half above Autuagaville, was also in process of organization in 1849.<sup>34</sup> By 1850 Alabama had many cotton factories in all sections of the state.<sup>35</sup>

In Calhoun county Messrs. Burton and Malory built a small cotton factory producing thread of a superior quality. These entrepreneurs were also planning to install looms as soon as a demand arose for woven products.<sup>36</sup>

Jones M. Gunn, of Dallas county, built the first mill in that county—a factory with 1,152 spindles. This mill was operated by steam power, the engine secured from Gindrat and Company of Montgomery. The editor of the *Selma Enterprise* urged the planters to support this establishment, advising them to “spend your money at home, do your own work, patronize your own mechanics and in a few years you’ll see the differ-

ence."<sup>37</sup> The same journal announced in 1852 that the Gunn Factory was preparing to install looms and asked the merchants to buy these products.<sup>38</sup>

Gunn's Factory was destroyed in the general collapse of the Confederacy. This factory was burned during the sack of Selma by Wilson's raiders in 1865. Gunn told the tale to J. T. Trowbridge while he was investigating Southern Reconstruction in 1866.

'I owned a cotton factory in Dallas County, above Selma. I had two plantations besides, and an interest in a tan-yard. Wilson's thieves came in, and just stripped me of everything. They burned eight hundred bales of cotton for me. That was because I happened to be running my mill for the Confederate government. I was making Osnaburgs for the government for a dollar a yard, when citizens would have paid me four dollars a yard, and do you imagine I'd have done that except under compulsion? But the Yankee rascals didn't stop to consider that fact.'<sup>39</sup>

South Alabama also had the beginnings of cotton manufacture before the Civil War. In 1850 the *Mobile Herald* described efforts to build two cotton factories in the vicinity. The Mobile Factory had its buildings almost completed and its machinery on shipboard in the bay; however, that of John Bloodgood, north of the city, was expected to begin operations first.<sup>40</sup> Bloodgood's mill commenced operations in August, 1850. He secured some of the machinery in England, and the company was using refuse and waste cotton in the manufacture of batting and wicking. However, it was promised that once the factory was completely ready for the manufacture of cotton cloth it would use only the best cotton.

This factory was a large frame building three stories in height. In the mill, ready to start, were 1,700 spindles, with 1,000 more to be delivered. In addition to the factory building the company had an engine house for its steam engine, and a machine shop for the repair of equipment. The mill was ex-

pected to consume 500 bales of cotton per year and employ seventy-five hands.<sup>42</sup>

Fulton Factory, owned by John Bloodgood, was built on Dog river a few miles above Mobile, where ships with supplies and those taking cargos could come within fifty yards of the factory dock. The mill was located out of the city to protect its workers from the degrading influences of the city and the annual threat of plague. This factory had a three-story brick building, with slate roof and iron door and window frames to make it as fire-proof as possible. The front of the building had a large four-story tower with a water reservoir, with hose leading to every floor. The total cost of the building was \$27,000. It contained 5,040 spindles and 176 looms, propelled by a steam engine. The mill gave employment to two hundred hands—mostly females—who produced six thousand yards of cloth daily.<sup>43</sup>

In 1857 Fulton Factory was in flourishing condition, despite many difficulties in the beginning—including a fire and a shortage of suitable labor. The original owners had sold their interest to a new group in 1852, who placed the operations in the capable hands of Edward H. Rogers. The company had invested a total of \$150,000 in the plant, and its products—osnaburgs and sheetings—had by 1857 earned a satisfied market among the merchants of Mobile and New Orleans. J. D. B. DeBow praised the proprietors for their success, which he felt would be an encouragement to others with similar interests.<sup>44</sup>

As for other cotton mills in south Alabama there is little information, although there is some indication there may have been one each in Barbour, Coffee, and Dale counties.<sup>45</sup>

In the general development of the cotton textile industry of Alabama, there were three outstanding Alabama promoters: Henry Watkins Collier, Chief Justice and Governor of Alabama; Daniel Pratt, probably the most noted manufacturer in the state; and James Martin, owner of the largest cotton manufacturing mills of the ante-bellum period.

Judge Collier was the earliest to make a strong plea for the extension of the textile industry. In 1846 he spoke before a manufacturers' convention held at Tuscaloosa. His remarks were based on observations made at a cotton mill in Cincinnati, Ohio, and information obtained from the owner of the Bell Factory near Huntsville.

Collier pointed out first the overwhelming advantages that Alabama possessed for this industry—the cheap and abundant supply of cotton, the ability to purchase cotton as it was needed rather than tying up capital in stored supplies, the warm climate which would save on the cost of fuel and of houses for workers, and the cheapness of labor. He tried also to change the contemporary view that factory employment would undermine the health of the employees. “There is nothing in tending a loom, to harden a lady’s hand; and in a well-ventilated and properly heated house. . . there is nothing to cause the *rouge* upon the cheek to fade, although the skin may become bleached by remaining so much in the shade.”

Manufacturing, he predicted, would stimulate agriculture and mechanical arts to improvements, and farms and farm people would become neater in appearance. Wealth would flow into the state, morals would be improved, and knowledge spread.

Planters were called upon to join together and build factories which would consume their cotton, and to employ twenty per cent of their slaves in these mills. This would automatically reduce the production of cotton and create a greater demand for the remainder, causing a general rise in price. Such a plan, Collier felt, could not fail to make Alabama and such interested parties wealthier. He urged that the poor white be employed in areas where there were few slaves, saying:

‘*Besides*, in a country where the facilities for living are as great as they are in the South, there are, and must continue to be thousands who, without any visible employment, live as an *incubus* upon the bosom of society. Many of these could be reclaimed and induced to work, and their children

might be reared up to habits of industry by giving them employment, if manufactories upon a large scale were established. The Southern people, then, should be prompted not only by a solicitude for profit, but by a sentiment of benevolence, to engage at once in the manufacture of cotton.'

In hiring either black or white the preference must be with the employer. Collier said, however, he did not favor the exclusive employment of slaves. "I am solicitous for the moral and intellectual elevation of man wherever found, . . . of seeing everyone industriously employed as one of the most effective means of promoting virtue and all its happy results."

In conclusion he stated: "I am perhaps an enthusiast. But if this be so, I would merely add, that every great moral reform is greatly indebted to enthusiasm for its consummation."<sup>45</sup> Four years later, when sectional issues were at white heat, Collier (then governor) urged in his message to the legislature an embargo on Northern goods and the widespread manufacture of cotton in Alabama.<sup>46</sup>

In 1851 Daniel Pratt, who had been manufacturing cotton successfully for several years, urged Southerners to devote their money and energy to encouraging home industry, rather than wasting it on fruitless commercial conventions. He called on planters to buy at home and stop sending their money to the North. If this were done, he predicted, there would be a greater improvement in the South than any dreamed possible. In summation he said:

Instead of these angry debates at our public meetings, let us unite and say we will give Southern manufactures the preference. . . If all would unite in this plan and carry it out, it would not be long before they could be supplied at home with most of the articles we consume, and such as are not made here, our own merchants could import.

In 1846 Daniel Pratt, born and reared in New Hampshire, was given recognition for his contributions toward the diversifi-

cation of his adopted state's economy. •President Manly of the University of Alabama said Alabama was indebted to Pratt for his making men "*wiser, better, and happier.*" Pratt was saluted for supporting schools for the working man as well as the rich, and also for supporting religious institutions among his hands. For these reasons the University of Alabama conferred upon him the honorary degree of *Master of the Mechanic and Useful Arts.*"<sup>47</sup>

In 1858 James Martin, senior partner of the Globe Mill, wrote a pro-industrial article for *DeBow's Review*. He call on all patriotic Southerners to contribute their abilities to the development and growth of diversified industry. He applauded those efforts, in the manufacture of coarse and negro cloth, which had driven out all Northern competition, and urged Southerners to redouble their efforts and manufacture the finer grades of cotton textiles. Planters were asked to take their places alongside the pioneer manufacturers and lend their capital and leadership to an expanded effort.

Martin warned that there were factories which had failed, and the result was the fear of capitalists to venture money in similar enterprises. The requisites for success, he said, were a sufficient capital, ordinary skill, and attention to good business habits. These should be combined with a healthy location, convenient transportation, and a plentiful supply of labor, provisions and fuel. Above all, Martin warned, some one of the company needed to have some knowledge of the business, so that he could judge the capabilities of a superintendent to operate at a profit.

One of the misfortunes of Alabama and the South was the lack of skilled supervisory personnel, suitable for the training of the operatives. This shortage, Martin believed, was due to the belief current among intelligent young men that "training of the mind and hand to any kind of handicraft, causes them to lose caste in society." Martin felt that this failure to accord labor its due recognition of dignity had to be overcome, for the ignorant could not teach the ignorant.

He described the efforts made by the Globe Company to elevate the poor whites and in this way make them useful to society.

Our three factories, at this time, are capable of working up or consuming four thousand bales of cotton per annum, and will require a population of about eight hundred persons—that is, the operatives and their families. Now, those four thousand bales of cotton, when made into such goods as we are making, is considered to be doubled in value—that is, will sell for the value of eight thousand bales raw cotton. Therefore, these people have virtually added to the wealth of the country an equivalent to four thousand bales of cotton, who would not, perhaps, if left in the woods from whence we obtained them, produced ten bales, and, perhaps not much of anything else. This enables them to live a much more comfortable life, and by constant employment, enables them to make much more useful and better citizens. We had among them twenty-five marriages during the last twelve months. . . . We have a day-school, a Sunday-school, well attended, and a church for their benefit, and in this way hope to benefit them, while we benefit ourselves.

Martin called on the planter class to stop investing money in land and costly negroes, and invest in cotton manufacture instead. The money so saved could furnish dozens of ships for direct trade with Europe or hundreds of miles of railroads. In conclusions Martin said:

It is vain to talk unless we act. There is a large amount of labor growing up that must be employed, or society at large must suffer. Who is to do this? Of course those who are able—the benefits will be mutual.<sup>48</sup>

Just prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, Alabama's twenty-four cotton factories were running more than 100,000 spindles, over 1,000 looms, with an investment of from two to three million dollars, and giving employment to 3,000 negro slaves and poor whites.<sup>49</sup> This represented an excellent example



of the growing diversification of ante-bellum Alabama's economy.

The bright prospects of most of the cotton manufacturers were blighted by the war. Mills located in the Tennessee valley were all wantonly destroyed in 1862 and 1863; at the end of the war, Wilson's raid—with its useless destruction—destroyed, at least temporarily, most of the cotton factories in the middle belt of counties. Yet the human resources trained in the ante-bellum period provided the nucleus for eventual recovery after the end of Reconstruction.

#### NOTES

1. *Niles' Register*, VI (July 9, 1814), p. 323.
2. *Ibid.*, XXIII (December 2, 1822), pp. 242-243, citing the Huntsville (Ala.) *Democrat*.
3. *Ibid.*, XXXII (July 28, 1827), p. 355, citing the Huntsville (Ala.) *Southern Advocate*.
4. *Lexington Kentucky Reporter*, November 3, 1827, citing the Mobile (Ala.) *Commercial Register*, August 29, 1827.
5. *National Intelligencer* (Washington, D. C.), December 18, 1828.
6. *The Democrat* (Huntsville, Ala.), November 27, 1829, citing the *Athenian* (Athens, Alabama).
7. There were cotton factories in Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Morgan, Madison, Jackson, and DeKalb counties. *The Daily Picayune* (New Orleans, La.) July 3, 1845.
8. *Niles' Register*, LXIII (October 24, 1842), p. 144.
9. *Daily National Intelligencer* (Washington, D. C.), July 17, 1841. *The Daily Picayune* (New Orleans, La.), July 15, 1841.
10. *Ibid.*, April 29, 1844.
11. Huntsville (Ala.) *Democrat*, January 13, 1848, an advertisement.
12. *The Charlotte (N.C.) Journal*, May 18, 1848, citing the Chattanooga (Tenn.) *Gazette*.
13. *Arkansas State Gazette and Democrat* (Little Rock), May 3, 1850. *DeBow's Review*, IX (July, 1850), p. 119.
14. *DeBow's Review*, IX (October, 1850), p. 433.
15. *Hunt's Merchant's Magazine*, XXXVIII (April, 1858), p. 509.
16. Robert Somers, *The Southern States Since the War 1870-1871* (New York, 1871), pp. 136-137.



17. Tuscaloosa, Bibb, Perry, Autauga, Coosa, Elmore, Dallas, Macon, Calhoun, and Tallapoosa.
18. *Niles' Register*, XLVII (November 8, 1834), p. 147.
19. *Ibid.*, LIV (June 28, 1838), p. 258.
20. *Daily National Intelligencer* (Washington, D. C.), May 7, 1845.
21. *Brownlow's Whig* (Knoxville, Tenn.), August 17, 1850.
22. Des Arc (Ark.) *Citizen*, January 8, 1859. *DeBow's Review*, XXV (June, 1858), p. 717.
23. *Daily National Intelligencer* (Washington, D. C.), March 23, 1843, citing the Tuscaloosa (Ala.) *Monitor*. The incorporators of the Warrior Manufacturing Company were James B. Wallace, John R. Drish, William Cochran, William G. Parish, Daniel H. Bingham, and William Banks.
24. *Ibid.*, April v, 1846, citing the Charleston (S.C.) *News*.
25. *Daily National Intelligencer*, November 22, 1845, citing the Montgomery (Ala.) *Independent*.
26. *Arkansas State Gazette* (Little Rock), October 20, 1845, citing the Wetumpka (Ala.) *Whig*.
27. *Niles' Register*, LXX (June 26, 1847), p. 260, citing the Tuscaloosa (Ala.) *Monitor*.
28. *Scientific American*, III (May 6, 1848), p. 261, citing the *Alabama Planter*.
29. *DeBow's Review*, IV (September, 1847), pp. 136-137.
30. *Ibid.*, X (February, 1851), pp. 225-226.
31. The Charlotte (N.C.) *Journal*, September 14, 1849.
32. *DeBow's Review*, X (April, 1851), p. 461.
33. Hillsbrough, (N.C.) *Recorder*, May 14, 1851, citing the Mobile (Ala.) *Tribune*. The owners of Autaugaville Mill were Rev. David B. Smedley, Major Lewis Tyns, and Capt. John N. Stoudenmire. The officers of the company were: Col. Samuel Stoudenmire, President; Malcolm Smith, Louis Hauser, Col. Edward Stoudenmire, Rev. David Smedley, Directors; and Willim Stringfellow, Agent.
34. The Charlotte (N.C.) *Journal*, September 14, 1849.
35. J.D.B. DeBow, *The Industrial Resources of the Southern and Western States*, 3 vols. (New Orleans, 1852-1853), I, p. 233.  
 Cotton Factories in Alabama in 1850.  
 Bell Factory, in Madison County 2,500 spindles  
 lorence Factory, in Lauderdale County 2,000 spindles  
 Decatur Factory, in Lawrence county 1,000 spindles

Tuscaloosa Factory, in Bibb County	1,800 spindles
Clement's Factory, in Bibb County	500 spindles
Fish-pond Factory, in Tallapoosa Co.	600 spindles
Tallassee Factory, in Tallapoosa Co.	1,000 spindles
Bradford's Factory, in Coosa County	600 spindles
Warrior Factory, in Tuscaloosa County	1,000 spindles
Prattville Factory, in Autauga County	2,682 spindles
Autaugaville Factory, in Autauga Co.	3,080 spindles
Mobile Factory, in Mobile County	3,000 spindles
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	19,762 spindles

This is an incomplete list and is only useful as an indication of the extent of cotton manufactures in Alabama in 1850.

36. *The Constitutionalist* (Augusta, Ga.), April 21, 1850.
37. *Constitutionalist and Republic* (Augusta, Ga.), November 4, 1851.
38. *DeBow's Review*, XII (January, 1852), p. 93.
39. J. T. Trowbridge, *A Picture of the Desolated States; and the Work of Restoration*, 1865-1868 (Hartford, 1868), p. 425
40. *The Constitutionalist* (Augusta, Ga.), May 9, 1850, citing the Mobile (Ala.) *Herald*.
41. *Ibid.*, August 7, 1851, citing the Mobile (Ala.) *Tribune*.
42. *Scientific American*, V (June 26, 1850), p. 322, citing the Mobile (Ala.) *Advertiser*. *DeBow's Review*, IX (October, 1850), p. 431.
43. *DeBow's Review*, XXII (January, 1857), p. 111, citing the Mobile *Herald* and *Tribune*.
44. Walter L. Fleming, *Civil War and Reconstruction in Alabama* (New York, 1905): see industrial map on p. 150.
45. Hillsborough (N.C.) *Recorder*, February 25, 1846, citing the Tuscaloosa (Ala.) *Monitor*.
46. *Arkansas State Gazette and Democrat* (Little Rock, December 13, 1850).
47. *DeBow's Review*, X (February, 1851), pp. 225-228. Fort Smith (Ark.) *Herald*, December 6, 1850, citing the Montgomery (Ala.) *Journal*.
48. James Martin, "The Field for Southern Manufactures," *DeBow's Review*, XXIV (May, 1858), pp. 382-386.
49. These figures are largest estimates made from a few actual statistics found in the materials consulted. In case where actual figures are known they are included.

Fulton Factory (Limestone) 1827

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Bell Factory (Huntsville) 1831	2,500 (1850)
Tuscaloosa Factory (Scottsville) 1834	25,000 (1858)
Globe Factory (Florence) 1840	23,000 (1858)
Warrior Factory (Tuscaloosa) 1843	?
Prattville Factory (Prattville) 1846	3,000 (1847)
Decatur Factory (Decatur) 1846	914 (1848)
Marks and Barnett (Tallapoosa) 1845	?
Smedley Factory (DeKalb) 1849	?
Autauga Factory (Autauga) 1849	3,500 (1849)
Fulton Factory (Mobile) 1850	5,040 (1850)
Gunn Factory (Dallas) 1850	1,152 (1852)
Mobile Factory (Mobile) 1850	2,700 (1850)
Burton and Mallory (?) 1846	?
Clement's Factory (Bibb)	500 (1850)
Fish-pond Factory (Tallapoosa)	600 (1850)
Tallassee Factory (Tallapoosa)	1,000 (1850)
Bradford's Factory (Coosa)	600 (1850)
Barbour County Factory	?
Coffee County Factory	?
Dale County Factory	?
Jackson County Factories (Jackson)	?



## "SCRAPS"

RELATING TO THE EARLY HISTORY OF  
LIMESTONE COUNTY\*

By Thomas Smith Malone

The Athens Post, March 7, 1867.

Page 2, Column 3.

## "Scraps"

Relating to the early history of Limestone County.

## Number 1.

In the year 1763, the English and French Governments formed a treaty by which this section of the country fell to the former, and was known as the Illinois Territory. In 1786, this country was ceded to the United States, and in 1798, the then President, John Adams, organized it into a Territory, and named it the Mississippi Territory, and appointed Winthrop Sargent its first Governor. The citizens of this extensive Territory, becoming dissatisfied with Governor Sargent, President Thomas Jefferson removed him, and appointed Wm. C. C. Claiborne Governor, who proved able, efficient and reliable. He was from one of the most talented and distinguished families of Virginia. At this time, 1802, there were no white citizens in this country, it being occupied mainly by Chickasaw Indians, with a light sprinkle of Choctaws, Cherokees and Creeks. Two years previously, to wit, in 1800, Mr. John Craig, with his family, consisting mainly of sons, visited this place (Athens), and encamped on the hill-side above the Big Spring, about where Judge McClellans residence now stands, as was pointed out to the writer many years ago by Mr. Craig himself. Mr. Craig only remained three days here, not liking the temper of the Indians, as manifested by their maneuvers; he broke camp, and returned to Tennessee. At this time an angry dispute arose between the United States Government and the authorities of Georgia, as to the ownership of all the Territory between latitude thirty one degrees and thirty-five degrees embracing this section and was carried on till April

1803, when commissioners were appointed, who agreed that the United States should have it by paying Georgia \$1,250,000. The commissioners on the part of the United States were Albert Gallatin, James Madison, and Levi Lincoln; on the part of Georgia, James Jackson, Abraham Baldwin and John Milledge. Immigrants began now to pour into the Northern portion of the Mississippi Territory, from Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina. The Most of them came by way of Knoxville, down the Tennessee river, in flat-boats, to the head of the Muscle Shoals, and these counseling with one Colbert, wended their way further South. The first company, coming thus, consisted Thomas Malone, their leader, and John and Wm. Murrel, and families; James Moore, Goodway Myrick, George Norsworthy, Robert Caller and John Houston, and about sixty negroes. These all desired to settle about and below Tuscumbia, but were persuaded to push on South, which they did, and ultimately found homes on the distant Alabama, and Tombigbee rivers.

Athens March 5, 1867.

M.S.T.

The Athens Post Thursday, March 14, 1867,  
Page 2, Column 5.

"Scraps"

Relating to the early history of Limestone County.

Number Two.

In 1805 the United States Government succeeded in making a treaty with the Chickasaw Indians, by the terms of which the Indians ceded most of their possessions to the Mississippi Territory, including a strip of land North of the Tennessee River, twenty-five miles wide, along the Tennessee State line and running down to the river at Ditto's landing, in the form of a

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\* Copied from the Athens Post, 1867.

triangle, about three or four miles wide, and named Madison County, with the little town of Huntsville as the County site. This county embraced all the territory ceded by the Indians to the Government in that treaty north of the Tennessee River. The then Governor of Mississippi Territory, Williams issued a proclamation, stating the above facts, and forbidding immigrants from settling outside of these limits, as the Chickasaws still held all other territory, South and Southwest of Madison County. Immigrants poured into Madison County from many of the Atlantic and Western States, chiefly from Tennessee, Virginia, and North and South Carolina, though but few from the latter State. In 1807, a party came into this county, though it was forbidden ground, and yet held by the Chickasaws. This party, believed to be the first settlers in the county of Limestone, (Since named) consisted of Thomas Redus, William Redus, Wm. Simms, James Simms, James Witty, John Maples, Benjamin Murrell, and one Pridmore. They came from Rean County, Tenn., in flats, on the Tennessee River, to the North of Elks River, and up Elk to Buck Island, where they tied up, and proceeded to prospect; and in a few days, moved out and built cabins in the neighborhood known as Simms settlement. On the third day of October, 1807, they erected the first cabin, for the Simms Brothers, hence the name of the settlement. In the following year, to-wit, 1808, many others settled in the county. Among these were the Frenches, (among whom was Uncle Amos), Levi Cummings, Wm. Greenhaw, Thomas Nichols and Wm. Kyle. These all save Kyle, settled on Limestone Creek, nine miles east of Athens. Kyle settled four miles this side of Moorsville. The same year came the Mitchells into the county, and settled on Limestone Creek, above the last named settlement some four or five miles. Their names are Flooda Mitchell, Sr. and sons, Randolph, James, John, Daniel and Flooda, Jr. The same year John, James and Joseph Burleson came into the county, and settled on the same creek a few miles above the present site of Mooresville. About this time, to-wit, the fall of 1808, two brothers, Robert and William Moore, came from near Huntsville and settled a little patch, the present site of Mooresville; and from whence the town derived its name. The first settlers in Simms settlement brought provisions with them to last till the year 1808, and in the spring of

that year, they planted pretty extensively, the Indians having cleared up, previously, a few acres of land in that neighborhood.

Respectfully,

M.S.T.

March 11, 1867.

The Athens Post, Thursday March 21, 1867,  
Page 2, Column 2.

“Scraps”

Relating to the early history of Limestone County.

Number Three.

The same year to-wit: 1808, in November, Samuel Robertson settled in this place, (Athens), on the South-east corner of the public square which has been known for many years as the “Bass Corner”. Robertson established a trading house, furnishing provisions, as well as a few articles of merchandise, trinkets, etc. He remained here occupying the same place, trading, feeding and trafficking with all comers and goers, Indians as well as whites, until the year 1810, when Col. Meigs drove him off with the Military. The General Government, influenced by the complaints of the Chickasaws and Choctaws, sent Col. Meigs out this year to protect them in the quiet possession of their lands, and to maintain peace among the different races. The Colonel encamped in the fall of this year on Elk River, thirteen miles from Athens, a little South of west, and built a fort, which he named “Fort Hampton,” in honor of a noble and distinguished gentleman of that name, who was from South Carolina. Colonel Meigs is said to have exercised great mildness, forbearance and discretion in his government of the wild and fierce and turbulent men whom he had to manage. He displaced Robertson, with Wilder, and made this post a stopping and furnishing point between Fort Hampton and Huntsville. Wilder retained possession of this post until the year 1817, when the Military having been withdrawn,



Robertson claimed the spot, quarreled with Wilder, and in a fierce fight which ensued, shot and dangerously wounded him. During the same year, 1808, David Broiles settled on the road leading from Huntsville to Browns Ferry, (since known as the township road), about five miles from the Ferry, on a little creek, which took his name, "Broiles Creek". While on the subject of creeks, I beg to give here the information in my possession, as to the origin of their names: Limestone was called "Black Creek", by the Indians, but its name was changed by the white citizens, the Mitchells and Cummings, on account of the great amount of Limestone rock in its bed and on its banks. The first cluster, or field of pine trees, was found on the banks of Piney, and hence its name. The Burlesons and Moore have the credit of naming Swan, who were induced to give it this name from the large numbers of Swan and Geese they noticed on its waters near its mouth, in the neighborhood of Moorsville. Round Island has a remarkably round island at its mouth, and D. Broiles discovering it, named the creek from it. During this year, (1808), in September, George Rogers, in passing from one settlement to another, found a patch of corn, two acres, and made a halt, and in a week brought his family and settled there, there being a rude partially finished cabin by it. He induced a man, with a large family, by the name of John Rogers, not a relative however, to settle near him the same fall. It was afterwards ascertained that Thos. Stone attempted a settlement there in the spring (May, 1808), planted the corn, and was completing his cabin when he received a threat from a squad of roving Indians, and left. These were the first settlers of Cambridge, and it grew, within a year or two, to be the most populous as well as the most important town in the county, which ascendancy it maintained until after the election between it and Athens, of which I shall hereafter speak.

March 18, 1867.

M.S.T.

The Athens Post, Thursday March 28, 1867,  
Page 2, Column 2.

"Scraps"

Relating to the early history of Limestone County.

Number Four.

We failed to state in our last number, that there were several roads cut out through the county, by the Soldiers, under Col. Meigs, during the year 1809, and 1810. The Colonel had two companies of United States regulars under him, which he confined pretty closely to "Fort Hampton", and with these opened a good wagon road from the Fort to this place. The road was extended on to Huntsville, and in the cutting out of the road, east from this place, he was assisted by troops furnished him by Gen. Wade Hampton, whose headquarters were at Huntsville, Gen. Hampton had the supervision of all this section of country, and is supposed to have had with him a regiment or two. His troops are said to have opened a small wagon road from "Haye's Point," three miles this side of Huntsville, to Brown's Ferry, which was some years thereafter enlarged and straightened, and became the great "Township Road" to that ferry, from Huntsville. Colonel Meigs, in this year, (1810), opened a road from the Fort (Hampton) in the direction of Mooresville, and called the Old Fort Hampton and Mooresville Road. In this year (1810) was begun and completed the road from Mooresville, in the direction, and to Elk River, at a ferry known as "Elk Ferry", and subsequently, as Elkton. During the years 1810, 1811 and 1812, General Hampton gave the squatters, through this county, on Indian lands, much trouble and loss, by sending squads of Soldiers through the country to burn and destroy their patches of corn, vegetables, fences, etc.; in some instances burning their huts and cabins. The squatters, in turn, gave him much trouble, in various ways; to-wit: in secreting the stock, horses, cows, and other property, run out of Madison county, into this, then Indian sections, to evade impressment, the paying of debts etc., etc. There is a citizen of this county, now living, who experienced much trouble in collecting

debts, at that time, or more particularly in 1813, 1814 and 1815. He was a Deputy Sheriff and a Justice of the Peace, and in order to succeed in making levys, regaining stock and other property, that dishonest citizens of Madison county, where law and order, to some extent, had been established by the United States Government, had to resort to the expedient of hiring men to come by night, recapture said property, carry it over the line, when the officer would meet him, levy it, and in proper time proceed to sell it. What, with the encroachment of imigrants on the Indian lands, their complaints to the General Government, and to General Hampton himself, I doubt not he had an interesting and lively time of it. Indeed if the remark be permissable just here, I would say that this world has been in a considerable of a "Stew" ever since Adam was driven out of the Garden. But to return to the year 1808, Benjamin French left his relatives, then settling on Limestone Creek, nine miles east of Athens, and visited, and established himself at a point 17 miles South of Athens, two or three miles south of Mooresville, near Piney Creek, which place afterwards became a town of some importance, and known as Cotton Port, from the fact that the first cotton in this county, was shipped from that point in the flats, a few miles down into the Tennessee River and thence on to New Orleans. This was a place of considerable traffic for many years, cotton being shipped annually from it for a number of years, and more largely than from any other in the county, until about the year 1818 or 1819, when Browns Ferry outstriped it in the shipment of cotton.

Respectively,

M.S.T.

March 23, 1867.

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The Athens Post, Thursday, April 4, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 2.

"Scraps"

Relating to the early history of Limestone County.

Number Five.

It is a much more difficult task to infuse an interest in these

sketches than I supposed when I undertook them, but as I only promised, to give some disconnected "Scraps", I do not feel that I have failed in my promise.

I close up in this number the facts I have to give for the years 1807, 1808 and 1809. George Witty, lately deceased, a worthy citizen, was the first child born in this county. He was born in November, 1808, five miles North, one degree east of Athens. Robert Pridmore was born on Colonel John Maple's plantation, seven miles North of Athens, in May, 1808. Henry French, son of Uncle Amos, was born Nine miles east, on June 11, 1809. Mr. Thomas Redus, a very worthy and highly respectable citizen of the county, is believed to have been born the same year, 1809. To fill out this number, I propose to give a few items in relation to the State. In June, 1815 an election took place in Madison county for three delegates to the Territorial Legislature of the Mississippi Territory. The County (Madison) contained, at this time, more than ten thousand citizens, and gave a vote at this election of 1,570 votes. Gabriel Moore, Hugh McVay and William Winston were elected. In 1815, December 12, President Madison issued another proclamation, forbidding incroachments on the Indian lands, embracing this section, Limestone County, and large tracts lower down, belonging to four tribes, the Choctaws, Cherokees, Chickasaws and Creeks. This new and pre-emptory proclamation had a decided tendency to retard the immigration into it, though squatters continued to come, but in very much diminished numbers. The trouble given the General Government about this time by the difficulties between the whites and Indians, caused in the next year, 1816, to appoint commissioners to treat with the Indians, who succeeded in the fall of this year, October 1816, in forming a treaty by which all the land from the head-waters of the Coosa, near Rome, Ga., west to the point where Caney Creek empties into the Tennessee River, including all this section of country was ceded to the United States. At that time, the Mississippi Territory included between seventy-five and eighty thousand inhabitants, nearly one third of which was in the Tennessee Valley. From December, 1816, citizens flooded to this country; Virginia, furnishing much the largest proportion; that is she was largely

ahead of any other State. On the 1st of March, 1817, Congress ordered the Territory to be divided, by a line, commencing at the mouth of Bear Creek, on the Tennessee, thence to the Northwest corner of Washington county, thence South, along the Western limit of that county, to the Sea. On the 10th December, 1817, Mississippi was admitted as a State into the Federal union. The Territory East of the Mississippi, Congress erected into a Territory, and called it Alabama, from its great central river. At this time, August, 1817, the Alabama Territory had only seven counties, Viz: Mobile, Baldwin, Washington, Clark, Madison, Limestone and Lauderdale. These counties retained their Legislative Judicial powers and officers. The seat of the Territorial Government was fixed at St. Stephens.

Respectfully,  
M.S.T.

March 30, 1867.

The Athens Post, Thursday, April 11, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 4.

Transcribed from the original  
now on file in Archives And  
History, State of Alabama.

### "Scraps"

Relating to the early History of Limestone County.

### Number Six.

The first Governor of Alabama Territory, was Wm. Wyatt Bibb, then a Senator in the United States Senate from the State of Georgia. He was the son of a Revolutionary Captain, Wm. Bibb. His mother, a Miss Wyatt, of New Kent County, Virginia, was highly distinguished for talents and every estimable virtue. Our first Governor was born in Amelia county, Va., on the 2nd of October, 1781; was a graduate of William and Mary College; as a Physician in Petersburg, Ga., became a politician, and finally reach the United States Senate at a very early age.

The first Territorial Legislature was convened at St. Stephens, January 19, 1818. James Titus was sent as Delegate from this county, and claimed to have been elected as Councilman, or Senator, being the only Senator present, is said to have cut quite a ludicrous figure, meeting solitary and alone every day at the appointed hour for the other House to convene, passing on all of their acts, and adjourning himself at the usual hour. The lower house was composed of thirteen members, of which Gabriel Moore was the Speaker. This Territorial assembly, under the able direction of Gov. Bibb, did much for the advancement of the Territory. They laid off five or six new counties; re-arranged the boundaries of the old ones, etc., etc. Madison county hitherto a triangle, was squared into her present limits; Limestone, at the same time, received her present meets and boundaries. The counties south of the river were laid off with their names and boundaries, save Morgan, which was given the Indian name of Cotaco, after a creek running through it. The President, and only member of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, were allowed Seven dollars per day, and members five, with mileage added; this was quite liberal for the times. A committee was appointed to select a suitable place for the permanent seat of Government. In this Committee are found the names of our member; James Titus, and the Madison County member, Clement C. Clay, Sr. This Territorial Legislature, erected the following counties into the "Northern Judicial District"; Madison, Limestone, Cotaco, Lawrence, Franklin and Lauderdale, and on the 14th February, 1818, Gov. Bibb appointed Henry Minor Attorney General of the District. John W. Walker, of Huntsville was first appointed, but declined the office. When in the Mississippi Territory a "Stock Bank" had been established in Huntsville. This Assembly changed its name to that of the "Planters and Merchants Bank," with a State Capital of Three Hundred Thousand dollars. During this spring, (1818), thousands flooded to this section from Virginia, the two Carolinas, Tennessee and Kentucky. The writer remembers well, one of the Cavalcades that came from Virginia, at this time, there were 87 vehicles (Waggon, Carts) with a large amount of stock, with this living cargo, came the Spanish potatoe, at one time noted in this country. The Assembly appointed one member to each of the counties. The election for a second meet-

ing of the Territorial Legislature was fixed for the first Monday in May, 1818, of that year. The Legislature convened under this new election, in the fall at St. Stephens again. John W. Walker, of Huntsville, was elected Speaker of the House, our Jas. Titus President of the Council or Senate. The committee, appointed for the purpose, selected a point at the junction of the Alabama and Cahawba rivers, for the permanent seat of the Territorial Government, to be called Cahawba; authorized Gov. Bibb, as sole commissioner, to have the ground surveyed, the necessary buildings erected, etc.

Respectfully,

M.S.T.

March 30, 1867.

Transcribed from original  
now on file in Archives And  
History, State of Alabama.

The Athens Post, Thursday, April 18, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 2.

### "Scraps"

Relating to the early History of Limestone County.

Number Seven.

The Territorial Legislature adjourned on the 27th of November, to meet again the next Spring at Huntsville. During the year 1818, the population increased so rapidly that Congress authorized the people to take steps to form a State Constitution. The election for members of the Convention, who were to perform this duty, took place the first Monday in May, 1819, and the Convention convened in Huntsville on the 5th of July following. John W. Walker was elected President of the Convention, and John Campbell its Secretary. The members elected from this county, and who was said to have exercised much influence on the deliberations of that able body, were Nicholas Davis, Thomas Bibb and Beverly Hughes. The two first named con-



tinued to exercise a large and wholesome influence on the Legislation of the State for many years thereafter. Hon. Nicholas Davis at the first election held after the State entered the Federal Union, was elected Senator from this County, and was, on the meeting of the General Assembly of the State, chosen its President and continued for ten consecutive years to represent the people of the county, and to fill the chair as the presiding officer of the Senate, with its marked fidelity to the interest of his constituents, and great acceptability to the Senators. Mr. Davis was called on by friends to run for other offices, but owing to the decided minority of his party (Whigs) in North Alabama, was generally left out. All parties, however, had the highest confidence in his patriotism, integrity and very decided ability. Hon. Thomas Bibb also filled many offices in the interest of people, and with marked ability and fidelity to their best and highest interest.

In the summer of 1819, in anticipation of the reception of the new State into the Union, at the next session of Congress an election was held throughout the Territory for Governor, members of the two Houses of the General Assembly, etc. Wm. W. Bibb was elected Governor, by a vote of 8,342, leading his competitor, Marmaduke Williams, by 1202 votes. The Senate had twenty one members, and Thomas Bibb was elected its President, the House was composed of forty-five members, and James Dellet of Monroe, was elected Speaker.

This Legislature proceeded to elect United States Senators, and on the first ballot, elected Wm. King and John W. Walker over Thomas D. Crab and George Phillips. Governor Bibb was inaugurated, with much pomp, as our first Governor, to be, after the reception of the Territory into the Union. He congratulated the people on the liberality of the United States Government for having donated 72 Sections of land for a high Seminary of learning; the Sixteenth Section in every township in the State, for free schools, and sixteen hundred, and twenty acres of land at the Confluence of the Alabama and Cahawba rivers, for a seat of Government. This session of the General Assembly was not only noted for its ability, and many offices it created and filled,



but for the presence of Andrew Jackson, who was in Huntsville, with a strong stable, for the races then going on there, and many kindly civilities tendered him.

Henry Nichols was elected Attorney General over John N. Jones. Lipscomp was elected Judge of the first Judicial Circuit; Saffold of the Second; Webb of the third; Ellis of the fourth, beating our county men, Hughes and John McKinly; and C. C. Clay, of the fifth. The counties were ordered to elect county officers; Limestone elected Wm. T. Gamble, Circuit Clerk; John T. Smith, County Court Clerk, and James Slaughter, Sheriff; the vote was over Seventeen hundred.

Respectfully,

M.S.T.

April 12, 1867.

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The Athens Post, Thursday, April 25, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 2.

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On file in Archives And History,  
State of Alabama.

“Scraps”

Relating to the early History of Limestone County.

Number Eight.

I suppose, in this number, to go back and travel over the same ground, to some extent; and then to notice the first efforts made in this county to plant the church of God.

In the spring of the year 1808, Jonathan Blair settled a mile and a half above Mooresville just in the fork of Big and Little Piney, not far from Mr. Ruffin Gamble's residence, and in a few hundred yards of the spot where Mr. Garrett, Sr., afterwards built a mill. In this neighborhood, settled in the spring of the same year, the Humphreys and the Piatts. While bringing up these facts, I beg to leave to correct a misstatement made in the

previous number as to names to-wit: Alexander Moors the father of John and Robert, settled out a few miles, in what was called the "Barrens."

In the spring of the year 1809, Robert Bell who coincided with the views of that wing of the Presbyterian Church, which in a few years, separated from the Mother Church, and established the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, began to hold meetings in the county. One of his first appointments was at the residence of Mr. John Blair's, and notwithstanding the bulk of the squatters were driven off the Indian lands in the winter of 1811 and 1812, he kept up regular appointments. In these visitations, Mr. Bell was generally accompanied by Mr. Robert Donnell, who, though as yet a young man, still showed that energy and indefatigable perseverance and fidelity which distinguished him in so marked a manner in subsequent life. They never gave up their visitations, but continued to visit and minister to the comparatively few and scattered inhabitants, until the fall of 1816, when, as we have heretofore seen, the United States Government acquired the lands by treaty from the Indians, and opened them for occupation.

During these five years of troublous and distressing times, these devoted and self-sacrificing men perserved in visiting and preaching to the few and scattered inhabitants of this Indian territory. What was the end of Mr. Bell, or what became of him, the writer knows not, but of the labors and eminent success and great usefulness of Mr. Donnell, I propose to speak more at length in a future number.

In the year 1812, Reverends Jas. Porter and Wm. Bumpass came into the county and preached at different places, and at regular stated times, and continued their ministrations until about the year 1820 or 1821. They were Cumberland Presbyterians, were good, devoted, self-sacrificing Ministers and ended their earthly pilgrimages in peace and holy triumph. The following Cumberland Presbyterian Ministers like-wise traveled and lived and labored successfully in this county from the year 1812 or 1813 until 1820 or 1822: Wm. Barrett, Wm. McGehee and John

Canahan. The writer has not been able to obtain biographical sketches of them, and can only add that they all believed to have ended their earthly pilgrimages in great peace and respectability.

In July, 1818, Reverends Donnell, James Porter and other bretheren held camp meeting near Shoal Ford, on Limestone Creek, believed to have been on the land of the late Nathaniel Davis. In the fall of the same year, a camp meeting was held by the same parties near the Cross roads of Rev. Booth Malone; Mr. Rice was at this meeting, and filled the pulpit several times. Another Camp-meeting, believed to have been held in 1819, was carried on by the gentlemen above named, in Limestone Creek bottom, on the Pettus place, about a mile from Salem Camp-ground. Camp meetings were held at one or all of these places until the year 1824, when the Camp ground was built up at Salem, on Mr. J. Fishers place, on the road to Mooresville. All of these early Camp meetings were Cumberland Presbyterian meetings and were presided over and carried on by Rev. Robert Donnell, and to a large extent, sustained and directed by him.

Respectfully,

M.S.T.

April 19, 1867.

The Athens Post, Thursday, May 2, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 2.

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State of Alabama.

“Scraps”

Relating to the early History of Limestone County.

Number Nine.

We gave in our last number a very vague sketch of the efforts of the Cumberland Presbyterian branch of the great Christian brotherhood, to plant, and build up a Christian Church

in this county; in this number we propose to call attention to some of the earlier pioneers of the Methodist Church, and we desire to say, just here, in reference to some of those heretofore noticed, as well as in regard to a few, who may be noticed in this number that we shall call attention in future numbers more particularly to their great efficiency and usefulness.

In the spring and summer of 1810, Mr. Blackman made his appearance and was preaching in several families and occasionally in the open air. He was a local preacher, and from the several meagre reports we have received of him, we infer that he was a man of solid arts, of deep and consistent piety; and of indomitable resolution and perseverance. How long he labored here, and where he fell on asleep, we know not. In the fall of the same year, to-wit: 1810, Father Thompson and a Mr. Harris, both local preachers, had appointments throughout the county, and continued them, more or less regularly till 1819 or 1820. The writer recollects the former well, and thinks his residence, for the most of the time, was in Madison county, six or eight miles west of Huntsville. He was a very good and useful man, and died in a good old age, peacefully and triumphantly. The end of Mr. Harris is unknown, but from his life, it is believed to have been happily. The next Methodist Minister, as to priority in time, who made his appearance in the midst of the "Squatters" on these Indian lands, was Joshua Boucher, who will claim in the future number more special notice than I shall give him here. He is believed to have begun his ministry in this county in the year 1813. He was the first "traveling preacher," in the county, and labored for a long period of time than any other Methodist Minister. He greatly attached to many of the earlier settlers whose warm, hearty attachments went with them to their graves. As has been stated, an immense tide of immigrants poured into this section, during the year 1816, 1817 and 1818, and among these were very many Methodist families, with their strait-breasted coast, and unpretending, exemplary piety. (God bless their severed memories); to all of whom Mr. Boucher ministered, and by whom he was greatly loved. In 1816, Israel Walker, James Farris, Picketts Copeland and Dr. John Nelson all had appointments and preached in different portions of the county. These brethren

all belonged, as the writer believes, to the local ranks, but were nevertheless good men and true; yea, some of them at least, were great men; not only in the pulpit, but in faith, in holiness, and great usefulness, they have all gone to their reward on high; but though dead, they yet speak; through their sons in the gospel, and in lay-members. and in the cherished examples, and blessed memories they left behind. The first Presiding Elder the Methodist had here, is believed to have been Mr. Porter, with a maimed hand, but a whole soul, and it filled with love to his fellow men, and with the Holy Ghost. He was an earnest, able and successful Minister. He made his first appearance here in 1818. For fear of making this number too long, we desist, and will bring up the Methodist Camp-meeting in the next number.

Respectfully,

T.S.M.

Athens, 24th April, 1857.

Transcribed from original on  
file in Archives & History,  
State of Alabama.

The Athens Post, Thursday,  
May 9, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 2.

("Scrapps.")

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

Number Ten.

We promised, in the last number, to give in this paper some account of the earlier camp-meetings, held in this county by the Methodist.

The first camp-meeting held here by any denomination, of Christians, was held by Methodist. members of other denominations assisting, and conducted by Mr. Blackman. who indeed, did most if not all, of the public preaching. He is said to have had several assistants, as exhorters, public prayers, singers, etc. The encampment, we have been informed by one who attended it, (old Mr. Craig), was rather rude, and not arranged with especial

reference to creature comfort or taste. It was held in the immediate vicinity of the present town of Athens, the precise point not recollected. Our informant stated that it made a deep impression on the inhabitants, especially Mr. Blackman's ministrations, which were remembered as being deeply impressive and very solemn. The next camp-meeting held by the Methodists, and the first where they built a regularly laid out camp-ground, was named Malone's, and was located some half a mile from the late Ebenezer Church stood-eight miles from Athens, on the Decatur road, or half a mile off the road, to the left as you go to Decatur in swamp bottom, some three-quarters of a mile above the ford. It was built in the Spring of 1818, on Neely Malone's land, and was annually used until 1823. Malone's "Meeting House," stood a mile this side of the Camp-ground, and was built in the year 1817. The meeting at Malone's campground was presided over by Rev. J. Boucher assisted by Reverends Thompson, Walker, Farris, Copeland, Nelson, Sampson Lane, and Queen Morton. Revs. Donnell and Porter both came to the meeting before its close, and each preached with great acceptibility and decided success, as the writer well remembers hearing the great numbers of mourners spoken of in after years. The Mr. Porter spoken of as being present, is believed to be he, who was then, and a year or two thereafter, Presiding Elder, in the North Alabama District. This is affirmed by some; but denied by others. In the Spring of the year 1823 it was determined by the principle campers, to brake up the Malone Camp-ground, owing, in part, to the annual disturbances, created there by some young men in its vicinity, and build up, and hold the next Camp-meeting at Cambridge, which was accordingly done. Camp-meetings were regularly held at this place Cambridge from that year 1824, till the breaking out of the War, with perhaps, but two years interregnum. Perhaps a larger number of conversions have occurred at this place than at any other in this section of country. Perhaps as much ministerial ability has been displayed here, as at any other in our country. I think that Rev. Wm. McMahon became Presiding Elder over this section in 1821, and he, at least, held the first meeting at Cambridge. The writer remembers many precious names, who, long years ago, labored there, and begs to name, in this place, only one, whose effort, on the occasion re-

ferred to, he very distinctly remembers. It was late in August, perhaps the 29th day, 1826, at night, Monday, when it was circulated around the camps that a boy was to preach that night, and that the young people, must go out and hear him. At the sound of the horn, the writer, with six or eight young companions, marched to the altar, and seated themselves a few steps in front of it. In a few minutes, the boy preacher arose, and made, as the writer thinks, a very feeling and strong appeal, especially to the young people. When the invitation was given by the speaker, the writer, with his companions, arose and marched bodily to the seekers bench, and there we wrestled, like Jacob of old, till the "breaking-of-day," when, or thereabouts, six of us made professions of having found Jesus. The "Boy Preacher" was John B. McFerrin, the present distinguished, and eminently useful, Dr. J. B. McFerrin, of Nashville.

Respectfully,

T.S.M.

Athens, May 3, 1867.

Transcribed from original  
now on file in Archives And  
History, State of Alabama.

The Athens Post,  
Thursday, May 16, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 2.

### "Scraps"

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

### Number Eleven.

The first Baptist Church built in this county, is believed to have been the "Baptist Meeting House" on Round Island Creek, on Mr. Richard Henderson's plantation, some three quarters of a mile Northeast from his present dwelling, and within a hundred yards of the old tan-yard on this Creek. This house was built late in the fall of 1816. Mr. Thomas Obanion is believed to have first occupied this house, as a preacher. The next year 1817, Mr. Jere: Tucker occupied this pulpit, jointly with Mr. Obanion. Towards the close of this year, Mr. Obanion was dismissed, and Mr. Tucker



then appointed one Sabbath in every month to minister to the brethren and citizens of the neighborhood, which he did regularly until the year 1823, when the members worshiping here removed their society, with Mr. Tucker still as their Minister, to the road leading from this place to Browns ferry, five and a half miles from Athens, on the head of Broyles Creek, where Mr. Tucker regularly and promptly served the congregation for many years. Early in 1818 Mr. Obanion made an appointment which he filled a few times, at Mr. Antony Agee's on the plantation of Mr. John Blair, near four miles this side of Browns Ferry, on the road,— Township,— to Huntsville. During that Spring, (1818) Mr. Agee was rented out by Mr. Wm. Malone, and Mr. Obanion's preaching there came to an end.

About these years three very able and distinguished Baptist Ministers made their appearance in our midst, and impressed the large congregations, which attended their ministrations, very favorably. The first, and perhaps the most impressive pulpit man, was Rev. Mr. Haygood, (the writer believes) originally from Kentucky. He is spoken of as a most eloquent and fluent speaker, and attracted the largest congregations to all of his appointments. Rev. John L. Townes began to fill appointments occasionally, in this county, as early as 1819. During the year 1820 and 1821, Judge John McKinley made a present of a lot of land, directly east of the present Female Institute, to a Board of Trustees, composed of Wm. J. Mason, Daniel Coleman, Joshua L. Martin, Robert Beaty and John D. Carroll, for a Female Academy, which Board accepted the gift, and employed Rev. Daniel P. Bester as President. It is believed Mr. Bester entered upon the discharge of his duties in October, 1821, and remained at the head of that Female Academy for many years. There are several ladies in this county who were pupils of his, with some of whom, I have conversed, and they bear testimony to his great worth and usefulness. The writer remembers him with great satisfaction, as an elegant, classical, accomplished Christian Gentleman. He was in the pulpit chaste, fluent, rhetorical, to a degree, and very persuasive. His abilities were marked likewise with forcefulness and energy. The writer remembers a noted debate between Mr. Bester and Bishop R. Pain in 1830, in La-Grange, Franklin county, Ala., in which



Mr. Bester gave the fullest satisfaction to his friends. These Baptist bretheren have all gone to their reward, save Mr. Bester, who is now stationed in Columbus, Mississippi. He did a good work for Limestone county in elevating the moral character of our people; training their minds, not only morally, but literally, and this good impression still lingers in families here, the mothers of which were trained and educated by him. He is a sweet, lovely, good man, and may God bless him in his advanced years and labors, and give him peace, quiet and happiness in his declining days. Revs. Hopwood and Bester preached in many portions of the county, and frequently were called to adjoining counties, owing to their great fame as pulpit men. Mr. Bester, for a number of years, preached almost every Sabbath, in this town, and deserves much credit, in getting up a spirit to build a church here, although a Union Church at its inception, and for years, thereafter, was built through his popularity mostly.

Respectfully,

T.S.M.

May 10, 1867.

Transcribed from original  
on file in Archives And  
History, State of Alabama.

The Athens Post,  
Thursday, May 25, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 2.

(“Scrapps,”)

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

Number Twelve.

We have heretofore noticed, in our disjointed way, most of the earliest settlers in Limestone County; paid some little attention to the cutting out of the first roads; given the places from which the exports were carried on etc., etc., in the last few numbers, given the most reliable information we could command as to its earliest preachers, embracing the three most prominent denominations in the then young community, and we now propose to review, somewhat before we venture farther, and ascertain as

well as we may be able, the position, the status, of the county, the community, at that period, 1820 to 1822. And we claim for the county, a higher position than that attained unto by her sister counties, in North Alabama. In morals, in educational facilities, and in Statesmanship, yes, in general elevation and tone of character this community occupied a higher and better standpoint, at that period than the neighboring counties, unless we are mistaken in our estimate.

And first Limestone was blessed with wise, liberal, large-hearted and patriotic statesmen, as leaders, as Hons. Nicholas Davis, Thomas Bibb, John D. Carroll, Daniel Coleman. Robert Beatty etc., etc., And second as to her education, she was equally highly favored, as the following names will sufficiently attest: Dan P. Bester, John B. Forrester, Jas. W. Allen, James Allen, Jacob Watson, Wm. Edmondson, N. Gove, Dr. F. Tomkies, Calvin Hines, John D. Carroll, Robert Timmin, Joseph Wood, Wm. McQuestion etc, etc., all "good men and true," and many of them, men of acknowledged scholarship and ability. But lastly, as Preachers, Politicians, say not the least, but the most important of all, Limestone was very highly favored in her Ministers and the character of her population during the years 1816, 1817, 1818; as we have before stated a very heavy immigration was going on, and among these new comers, were very many plain, sturdy, fixedly religious men, with their families; they brought their industry, their morals, their religion with them, and the difficulty with the devoted, earnest ministers of the gospel, was not to find a place to deliver their messages, but to choose amidst the overwhelming number of applications for their services.—There were many devoted, earnest, wholesouled Ministers here at this time, doing their Masters work with a will, when these came, and with them came others of like devotedness. These Ministers. I doubt not, did more to secure a good state of society here, than any one element. Such men as Robert Bell, Robert Donnell, J. Boucher, James W. Allen, Jesse Coe, Wm. McMahan, Dr. G. W. Taylor, Dr. Nelson, Joab Watson Father Thompson, Mr. Blockmon, Messrs Marshall, James McFerrin, Bester Hopwood and Tucker with their burning Zeal and great abilities all devoted to the elevation and evangelization of the citizens, could not fail to make a strong decided im-

pression for good. These were the men that the time and state of society needed, and just such as the present exigences of our country require and demand; men who are not for sale, men who are honest, sound to the heart core, from center to circumference; men whose consciences are steady as the needle to the pole, men who can and tell and act the truth, and look the world right in the eye, men who will stand up for the right, though the earth reel, or the heavens fall, men who neither swagger nor flinch; who neither brag nor run; men who have moral courage, without whistling for it; in a word, men who have God and are careful to secure his approbation, and are careless to the plaudits of the world, or the pelf of this world, or its pleasures or honors. Such men, we believe those above named, as God's servants, to have been, and under God's blessing they made their mark on the citizens of this county. It is, in our weak estimation but another instance among thousands, of the Divinity there is in our holy Religion, as proof of the influence and tendency of the gospel when wielded with clean hands, and a pure heart; we refer to the potent fact, that there has been less crime in our county for the last fifty years, and we have furnished fewer subjects for the Penitentiary. Their works, though they are dead, yet remain with us, and we pray God that their good influence may still continue with us to bless and guide us.

Respectfully,  
T.S.M.

May 17, 1867.

Transcribed from original  
now on file in Archives and  
History, State of Alabama.

The Athens Post,  
Thursday, May 30, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 2 And 3.

"Scraps"

Relating to the Early History of Limestone county.

Number Thirteen.

"Disjecta Members," Matersoligical.

We have been disappointed in certain expected statistical

documents failing to reach us. We beg leave, in order to gain time, to fill this number with miscellaneous items. As on addenda to our last number (for it escaped us when writing it) we desire to add, as tending to prove the great advantages enjoyed by the citizens of this county, that Our "Justices of the Peace," of that day were superior in weight of character, and decided abilities, to many of those who, in these latter days, rule State and nationalities, to-wit: Thos. Bibb, Nicholas Davis, Dan Coleman, J. D. Carroll, Joe Bell, etc. Think of a Justice's Court, composed of the three first names, with Thos Bibb as chief justice of the court. Do we have Orphans or county court of such eminent ability in these days? Your readers may not be aware of the fact, that five Justices, in these days were appointed a court to hold four courts annually, and with the privilege of continueing their court for five days. On the subject of early camp-meetings, an item or two escaped my notice. One of the earliest Cumberland Presbyterian camp-meetings was held on muddy creek, one mile Northeast of the present New Garden encampment; about one half mile Northeast of the present residence of Mr. Abner McWilliams. This meeting was held in the fall of 1818, and was conducted by Rev. Robert Donnell, assisted by Messrs Gibson, Steel and Birney, Cumberlands, and Wm. Leves-que Methodist. These meetings were held there annually, till 1822 when the encampment was removed to the present New Garden, at which place meetings were annually held till the first of the War.

Perhaps the greatest freshet that has ever occurred in this county, came in the spring of 1810. My authority is the highest oral authority. Rev. R. Donnell, who says the great freshet of 1847, was, at the two points marked, Viz: Mooresville back water — and Burleson's, or Dr. Rhodes Ferry, (now Decature) seven and a half feet at the former, and six and a half feet at Decature, below the great freshet of 1810. The freshet this year, 1867, was about one foot less than the one of 1810, from the most reliable information I can obtain. I refer to Dr. J. S. Blair for verification of this statement. The lowest the mercury has reached in this county, known to this writer, was in February, 1824; five degrees below zero. Messrs W. McMahon and James Marshall were to hold a quarterly meeting at the Dog-wood Flat church, but the

weather was so intensely cold that the meeting, Saturday and Sabbath, was held in the house of the writers father. The mercury reached four degrees below zero; 16th of February, 1855; on the 12 February, 1835 it was two degrees below zero; on the 14th of February, 1831, it was 1 degree below zero; on the 17th March, 1843, there fell a snow here, near four inches deep, it lay on the ground some four days. On the 16th of May, 1847, there fell a snow sufficiently heavy to wet a feather bed through a thick blanket. In 1824, the year La Fayette visited the United States, there came a frost on the 27th of May that killed all the vegetation, insomuch that the wheat fields and woods stunk for days thereafter. On the 27th, 28th and 29th days of April, 1834, there fell biting frosts, killing much vegetation. During the winter of 1826 and 1827, the frosts were not sufficient to kill the cotton stalks, so that a cotton field of 1826 having been permitted to remain unmolested, put forth new sprouts in the spring of 1827, and grew, to maturity 1 to 200 lbs. cotton on the acre that year, and the writer assisted in picking it; it was published in the "Athens Register," Mr. McCartney, of that year. In 1820 a tornado passed over the northern portion of this county; very destructive in its course, and also through Madison county; its course, as I believe all have been, that have passed over this county, during the last fifty years, was from Southwest to Northeast, about from 300 to 500 yards in width. It crossed Indian creek at the ford on the road from Athens to Huntsville leveling all the dwellings of Mr. A. D. Binford, and Mr. Johnson at the first of its crossing the creek and road. In 1825 another destructive tornado passed over this county, north of here, over the corner of Hare's old field. In 1828 a tornado passed South over Athens about five miles. In 1840 or 1841 a tornado passed over the county, near Mooresville. About the year 1827, a tornado passed near Phillips store, and went over into Madison county. The above five, I believe, include all of these destructive whirlwinds that have vitited our county since 1810. As a storm is of less strength and grandeur than a hurricane, so a tornado is the climax of wind currents, in the sublime, the awful and the terrific, not to be paralleled till that great day. Some years ago, a black round looking ball of cloud, about the size of the public square in Athens, was seen swiftly approaching, rolling, tumbling, involving, girating, and

contorting itself, like unto a great bundle of black snakes, till in a few moments it passed over, discharging a most wonderful amount of hail stones ever witnessed in this section. They were of almost all sizes and forms, destroying buds, fowls and much vegetable matter, in instances trimming trees almost bare of leaves and limbs.

Respectfully,  
T.S.M.

May 26, 1867.

Transcribed from the original  
on file in Archives and History,  
State of Alabama.

The Athens Post,  
Thursday, June 6, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 6

"Scraps,"

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

Number Fourteen.

As stated in one of the earlier numbers, the Territory of Alabama was authorised, by act of Congress 2nd March, 1819, to form a State Constitution. The members elect to perform this important work assembled in Huntsville, on the 5th day of July, 1819, and the members who took their seats from Limestone county were Nicholas Davis, Thomas Bibb and Beverly Hughes. The first Legislature of the State of Alabama, convened in Huntsville, in the fall of 1819. To that General Assembly Limestone county sent the following members: Senator Thomas Bibb, Representative Nich Davis, Benj. Murrell, Beverly Hughes. Thomas Bibb was elected President of the Senate, and Nich Davis Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture. This session of the General Assembly adjourned, after accomplishing much useful, and greatly needed legislation, on the 17th December, 1819. In 1820 Limestone sent to Cahawba, at which place Gov. Bibb had made arrangements, under the order of a previous Assembly, for the assembling of the Legislature, Thomas Bibb, who was again elected President of the Senate, Nich Davis, Benj. Murrell, and Wm. Edmundson as her Representatives. In July 1820, Gov.

Wyatt Bibb died, from the effects of a fall from his horse, and his brother Thomas Bibb, then Senator for Limestone, and President of the Senate, assumed the Gubernatorial chair, by virtue of this Presidency; and the people of Limestone immediately filled Mr. T. Bibb's place in the Senate by the election of Nicholas Davis, and the Senate, on its convening elected Mr. Davis to the Presidency of that body, which position Mr. Davis filled for the next ten years, with great acceptability to Senators, and to the entire satisfaction of the people of Limestone; and thus did Limestone county fill continuously—by Titus, Bibb and Davis—the honorable and highly responsible position of President of the State Senate for nearly Fourteen years, and I may venture to aver, with high abilities, and marked integrity. As the idea of the pre-eminence of Limestone is most prominent in my mind, at this writing, and as I do not propose to refer, specifically, again to this point, I beg to conclude this paper, with still other facts tending to sustain my assumption.—Limestone was honored again and again by the election to this distinguished position, the President of the State Senate, of others of her members, Hon. Nat Terry, and Hon. John W. Lane. Limestone has furnished more than one candidate, eminently worthy of the trust, for Gubernatorial honors, but who, owing to the policies of the day, were unseccessful, yet made highly creditable races. Our citizen Hon. J. L. Martin, was triumphantly elected for two terms, to that distinguished office, when the inquiry was "is he honost and capable," Limestone furnished a Representative in the Congress of the United States, for the long period of eighteen years, in the person of the Hon. C. S. Houston, one of the safest, most consevative, and ablest Statesmen, in that then able body of statesman, and who was, in acknowledgement of his known ability and conservatism, repeatedly placed as chairman of their most important committee. The same hon. Gentleman, was subsequently elected U. S. Senator, and would, without doubt, have assured the same commanding position in that body, which he so long maintained in the other house, if he had been admitted to his seat. This gentleman has repeatedly been spoken of, and recommended as a suitable person, in times past, to fill the important post of Secretary of the Treasury, and has a reputation as broad as the country. Hon. D. Coleman filled, with distinguished



ability and integrity, the highest legal offices, in the county and State; as Judge of the county court, of the Circuit Court, and of the Chief-Justiceship of the Supreme Court of the State, until declining health forced him to retire. Few men ever possessed more "Fitness" for these very responsible offices, or filled them with more entire acceptability to all concerned. I am too unlearned in statesmanship and the law, to dogmatise in those departments, but I give the conceded opinions of competent Judges. In nothing I have written thus far have I designed to make an invidious or a derogating remark in reference to any one.

Respectfully,  
T.S.M.

June 1, 1867.

Transcribed from original  
in Archives and History,  
State of Alabama.

The Athens Post,  
Thursday, June 13, 1867.  
Page 2, Columns 2 & 3

### "Scraps"

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

Number Fifteen.

The following act, passed by the Alabama Territorial Assembly, February 6, 1818, established the then boundary of Limestone county: "That all that tract of country, lying west of the County of Madison, North of the Tennessee river, and East of the Western boundary line of range numbered six, West of said basis meridian, shall form one county, to be called and known by the name of Limestone;" The foregoing boundaries of Limestone were somewhat enlarged, by act of the State General Assembly, passed November 27, 1821, by which a small fraction of land, lying in the fork of the Tennessee and Elk river, in range seven, township three, consisting of 3.742.58 -100 acres, was taken off from Lauderdale county and attached to Limestone, and this is the present boundary of our county. There are about 373.120 acres in the county, but a public land sale, held at Hunts-



ville, Alabama Territory, 1818, Robert Beaty, John D. Carroll, John Coffee and John Read, purchased the Northeast quarter of section eight, township three, range four, west, at sixty dollars per acre, and soon thereafter obtained leave of the Territorial Assembly to lay out and establish a town on it. On November 17, 1818, an act passed ordering an election of five commissioners in the county of Limestone, who should contract for, or obtain four acres of land, at some suitable, and as near as nigh the, central place in which to establish the county seat of Justice. The election was ordered to be held on the fourth Monday in March, 1819; the polls to be opened in the town of Athens alone, at 10 O'clock A. M., and kept open until 3 o'clock P. M., and reopened the same hours Tuesday. There was much excitement aroused by this election, in so much that the friends of the three competing points, employed canvassers for the county. Hon. Nicholas Davis "took the Stump" for Athens; Honorable Thomas Bibb and Mr. Wm. Edmundson for English's Spring, afterwards called Robinsons Spring, near McDonalds station. There were many warm friends of each locality for Cambridge the Hills the Tavern keeper there, and his son, the Doctor, who was merchandising there; the Fosters, Trimbles, McDowells, Harrisons and others; for English's Springs, the McComb's Cross Roads were in mass for it; Howell Robinson, Davenport, Stewarts, Malone and others Athens, had the enside track; her advocate was "a host" in those days, before the people, sustained and encouraged by the Colemans, Hopkins, Mason, Martin, and other strong, influential men, Athens Advocate, and Mr. McCartney's new paper The "Alabama Republican," carried the election by a large majority, giving more votes to Athens than the agregate vote of the other places. The men run, on the part of Athens, for Commissioners, were Reuben Tilman, Thomas Redus, Jeremiah Tucker, Robert Pollock and Samuel Hundley, and on the 3d December, 1819, an act passed establishing Athens as the "County Site" and empowering the above named Commissioners to "let out" to the lowest bidder, the building of "a Court-house jail, pillery and stocks, for the use of Limestone County," The act establishing a town "Athens," was passed November 19, 1818, and ordered that an election should be held on the second Monday in March, annually, for five trustees, a Constable, Tax Assessor and Treas-

urer, who should govern the town for twelve months. I have been unable to find the names of those first elected.

The Commissioners took steps to carry out the orders of the act. The Court-house was erected in 1820; the jail in 1821, and I learn Covington Edmundson was the first Jailor. Mr. McLeroy, the father in law of our esteemed fellow citizen, Capt. R. C. David, built the Court-House, but there were two other brick houses built in our county before the court-house, though in the same year, 1820. The late Mr. David Elliott built the brick-house, that was first occupied by him, and after by Robert Francis and others. The writer's little shop now stands on the same lot. That brick house stood until the late War. Mr. McBride built a little brick office for Hon. Arthur F. Hopkins, as a law office, on the lot covered by Mr. M. Thompson's store, now covered by Mr. Hoke's Drug store; this last brick office was perhaps finished before Mr. Elliott's, Judge Hopkins declined remaining here, and let Beverly Hughes have it and he Judge J. L. Martin.

Respectfully

June 7, 1867

T.S.M.

Note.—Perhaps I will be excused, if I introduce in a foot note an item or two respecting our neighboring City of Huntsville: An act was passed by the Mississippi Territorial Legislative Council and House of Representatives "establishing a county site, to be called and known as Twickenham, for the county of Madison." The Commissioners to carry this act into effect, were empowered to purchase, or obtain otherwise not less than thirty, nor more than one hundred acres of land, and set apart three acres, on which they were to have "erected a court-house. Jail, Pillory, whipping-post and stocks." The Commissioners appointed by this act were Wm. Dickson, Edward Ward, Lewis Winston, Alex Gilbreath, and Peter Perkins; the act was passed December 23, 1809, (I see a reference to Huntsville, or then "Twickenham" it is called "Twackenham" in 1810. Then the case seems to be thus: In 1809, it was "Twickenham," in 1810, "Thwackham," and in 1811, "Huntsville,") A petition was sent to the Legislative Assembly, signed by the accomplished and talented John W. Walker,

Gen. LeRoy Pope, Hon. C. C. Clay, Sr., and many other distinguished men, in the fall of 1811 to have the name changed to Huntsville, which was promptly done. I do not know the origin of these names, perhaps some citizen of Huntsville does.

T.S.M.

Transcribed from original  
on file in Archives and  
History, State of Alabama.

The Athens Post, Thursday,  
June 20, 1867.  
Page 2, Columns, 2 & 3.

“Scraps.”

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County

Number Sixteen.

We are again forced to fill up, literally with “Scraps,” another number, for the want of information, long since expected. The first Mill erected in Limestone County, was early in 1808, by Thomas Redus, now the property of the late Mr. Witty’s Estate. Mr. Redus furnished meal for the new settlement, and in 1811, when the few settlers were ordered off the Indian lands, through Gen. Wade Hampton, Mr. Redus was permitted to remain and run his Mill, for the benefit of the Soldiers and Indians. About 1810, there was a Mill built and run in the forks of Piney, about one mile and a quarter above Mooresville. In 1810 or 1811 a Mill was erected on Round Island Creek, about the crossing of that Creek by the “Township Road” from Brown’s Ferry to Huntsville. The man who erected and owned the Mill, lived on the bluff just below, and was a relation of Broils name not recollected; something like “Skyles” James Miller erected a Mill on Round Island Creek in 1821, which was subsequently owned by Mr. Wilson. McKinney, Sr. Clayburn Wright erected and run a Mill, at the mouth of Big Creek, ten miles West of Athens, in 1816. Higher up on Big Creek in 1817, or 1818, E. E. Robinson built a Mill, and the same year his brother Amos, erected one still higher up that Creek. In 1816 or 1817, Mr. Hog erected a Mill on Piney at the lower end of Mrs. S. Fielding’s plantation, where the old

Fayetteville road crosses the Creek. In 1820 Jas. Titus erected a grist and saw Mill on Piney, where the stage road crossed to Huntsville.

Ransom Langham erected and carried on the first Cabinet Shop, in Athens, in 1818; 1820 Covington Edmundson the second. Dick Hale established the first "brick yard" here, below Mr. J. W. Sloss, dwelling, to make brick for chimneys, in 1818. In 1818, the father of our distinguished Architect, Col. H. H. Higgins, built a two story edifice in Cottonport, containing 400,000 brick, the first brick edifice in the county, and the next year, 1819, one in Mooresville; both of these buildings were erected before any brick house was built in Athens. In 1819, Jas. McClung established one. In 1820 McGowan and Somers started a waggon shop here; subsequently, Henry Meyers took Somer's place, and ultimately bought out McGowan. The first Camp-meeting held at New Garden was in 1823, at which there was only one Carriage, Mrs. Judge Jone's; the next year, there were two there, Mrs. Jones and Gen. Key's. In 1824 Samuel Crenshaw erected the first foundry in the County, at the mouth of Big Creek, ten miles West of Athens, and cast the first bells ever used in Athens for Motels, etc. The same gentleman built the very fine clock first used, or formerly used in our Court-House. He made a superior one, as fine as it was, many years ago, for Holly Springs, Miss., which I learn gave the fullest satisfaction. Mr. Crenshaw was highly gifted as a machinist, a man of very decided original genius, and a model citizen, and Christian gentleman he now rests from his labors, and "is at peace."

Two brothers, Jonas and Richard McDaniel, started the first saddle shop here, in 1818, or 1819. The first Tavern keeper was Wilder, from 1811 to 1818; then Chaply Wilbourne, then May, then Smith, Drakes and Robert Elliott, who opened his Hotel in 1824. In 1820, Bill Bell kept at Bass Corner, which afterwards was owned, and carried on by the late Thomas Bass. The first Post-master was appointed in 1819 and was Jas. W. Exum, the Surveyor; Wm. T. Gamble kept the office for him until the fall of 1820, when our present respected fellow citizen, Capt. R. C. David took the office, and attended to it or Mr. Exum for six or

seven years, which he (Exum) was off in another State surveying. The first Jewelers (Silver Smith) was opened here in March 1821, by our present estimable old friend, David H. Friend, who has stood to his post "till to-day" more than fifty six years; may his years yet be many, and his days happy and joyful. The lawyers in our town in 1820, were few. J. L. Martin who settled here in 1818 or 1819. Daniel Coleman first put up his shingle in Mooresville, and did not move to Athens, until the later part of 1820, or first of 1821; the Justices Court doing the most of the business then, deciding knotty law points by their strong good sense. Of Physicians there was an abundance. Dr. Looney in 1819, Dr. Todd, in 1821; Dr. J. R. Evans, and Thievenotte in 1823; Dr. Roots in 1824, or 1825. Perhaps I have given more points now than any ordinary memory can retain, and I desist.

Respectfully,

T.S.M.

June 14, 1867.

Transcribed from original  
on file in Archives and History,  
State of Alabama.

The Athens Post, Thursday,  
June 27, 1867.  
Page 2, Columns 2 & 3.

"Scraps."

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

Number Seventeen.

REV. ROBERT DONNELL.

We promised, several weeks since, to call up again some few of the more prominent men, who labored, in the early settlement of this section of the country, in preaching the "Word" and to give condensed biographical sketches of them. We begin, in this number, the fulfilment of that promise, with the man who occupies the highest, foremost standpoint—Mr. Robert Donnell. Robert Donnell was the son of William and Mary Bell Donnell, was born in Guilford County, North Carolina, April, 1784. His father removed to middle Tennessee and settled in Wilson Coun-

ty, when Robert was about eight years of age, where he was raised to manhood. During this time he received a plain, common English education; and thus, like most of the great men, of earth, those who have moved the wheels of improvement forward and upward, in all of the departments of human knowledge and elevation; or who have eminently blessed the world by their labors he was forced to rely on himself alone, without those helps and facilities which are offered by Universities, lectures, large libraries, Scholarly companions, etc., etc. But he proved himself, unaided, equal to the great work he assigned to himself, by his eminent success, during his long, protracted labors" in the Vinyard of the Lord," Mr. Donnell had the advantage of one marked and distinguished blessing, to wit: pious parents, who were careful to "rear him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." He was baptised by the Rev. Dr. David Caldwell, of North Carolina. He was converted during that wide-spread, deep and astonishing work of God, under the Rev. James McGrady, known as the revival of 1800. He joined the Presbyterian Church, and soon thereafter was noted for his zeal; his fidelity to his Christian profession and principles, and became prominent as a young man for his good sense and rare judgement in conducting prayer meetings, as a catechist, etc. in 1806, he presented himself before the Council of his Church, asking their advice as to the propriety of his taking upon himself the duties and responsibilities of a Minister of Christ. They advised him and gave him authority to exercise on a wider field, as an exhorter, expounder, Catechist, etc. and we presume, from about this time, he entered upon the great and holy work; (which was protracted to the year 1855,) "hunting up the lost sheep, the house of Israel," and of calling poor lost sinners to Christ. And what a work! and how highly blessed of the Lord was he in this glorious work. Let his eminent success answer. We find him in 1809, in Madison and Limestone Counties, building up congregations and Churches, and notwithstanding the troubles with the Indians, in the three or four following years, Mr. Donnell never yielded his congregations, nor failed to visit and labor with and for them. In 1812, Mr. Donnell built up a fine Church at Canaan, a few miles West of Huntsville; another at Hazlegreen, in the same year, called "Concord." Indeed, it would occupy too much space to enum-

erate, Seratim, all of the societies he raised in these two counties, even in those early days. His field included, more directly, North Alabama, and a large portion of middle Tennessee. He settled in Limestone, I believe, in 1819. Others have so ably and minutely followed Mr. Donnell's course, that we desist, and beg to show "our own opinion" of Mr. Donnell's more marked characteristics. All the faculties of Mr. Donnell's mind were so well balanced, so "fitly equipoised," that through any single one might be large and vigorous, yet amidst a cluster, all of which were large, and decided traits, it was not readily distinguishable. There are two, however, to which I desire to call attention, and I am at a loss how to designate the first: it was aweight a massiveness of traits, that harmoniously combined, gave him in influence, presence, that all felt and acknowledged. I never witnessed in his presence light, silly, frivolous chit-chat; a company conversing on the streets, idly, unprofitably, would always be hushed if Mr. D. approached it. Yet he was very far from being morose, austere, or ill-naturedly censorious; he was kind, quiet, pleasant, affable, but always, and in all companies, "an ambassador for Christ;" and this beautiful, lovely, consisting of professions and acts, constituted one of the secrets of his great power. The other trait, to which I allude, and desire to emphasise, is this: What he found to do, he did it with all his might, and continuously; he was emphatically a man of one work, and all things else were subordinated to its claims; like David, he always "set the Lord at his right hand." God's Honour, and His work, were the consuming aspirations of his large soul. I think I risk nothing in avering that he did more work in his Masters vinyard than any man that ever worked in North Alabama; he built up the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, here from nothing, (he planted it here), to be a large and influential church. He died at his own residence, in this town, May 24th 1855. It was useless to speak of the death of a man who thus lived, and thus worked; he literally "went about doing good." Mr. Donnell was twice married—on the 17th of March, 1817, to Miss Ann E. Smith, daughter of Col. James Webb Smith, and mother of our respected townswoman, Major James Webb Smith Donnell. The second time on June 21, 1832, to Miss Clara W. Lindley, who yet lives and moves about in our midst, to cheer, gladden and bless those with whom



she is associated. She is indeed a "light in a benighted land, "full of the amenities and Christian benevolences of an elevated, cultivated Christian woman; long and happily may she live, to afford us the mellowing, inviting graces of such an example.

We have been, and remain, quite astonished that no enlarged life of Rev. Mr. Donnell has been written by some of his brethren, fully competent to this responsible task. Such a work, written in a lively (for he was a "live" man, during his entire, protracted life) fresh style, would be not only a source of great benefit to the rising generation of young men, but would afford renewed inspiration, and a more intense and burning zeal to those who are now laborers in the Vinyard. We respectfully ask if there be not one in our midst competent for this, to me, much desired work? I am indebted to G. W. Mitchell's very able sketch of Mr. D's life, for most of my facts.

Respectfully,

T.S.M.

June 24, 1867.

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Transcribed from original  
on file in Archives and History,  
State of Alabama.

The Athens Post, Thursday,  
July 4, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 2.

("Scraps.")

### REV. JOHN BUTCHER

We observe the spelling of Mr. Butcher's name as we find it in the minutes of the Conferences; at a later date he spelt it "Boucher," Joshua Butcher was born in Virginia, in the year 1782, October 23d. In 1791 his father moved to Kentucky, where Mr. Butcher was raised. He received a very limited education, indeed, having learned to spell and read only, and to do these very imperfectly. In the spring of the year of 1806, he sought and professed to find peace in a crucified and Risen Redeemer, at a quarterly meeting, held in his neighborhood. A few years before making this profession, he had married, and his wife having pre-



viously professed, they together united with the Methodist Church. In the year 1809, he moved his family and settled in Madison County, Mississippi Territory. In the spring of the year 1812, he applied for and received license to preach, and in the fall of the next year, to wit, 1813, he applied for admission into the Tennessee Conference, and was received on "trial". For the years of 1813 and 1814, he was placed on the Flint Circuit, embracing portions of what is now Madison and Jackson Counties. The years of 1814 and 1815, he again traveled the Flint Circuit, and in 1815 and 1816, he traveled the Bedford Circuit, and in 1816 and 1817, he traveled Elk River Circuit, embracing the whole northern portion of Limestone County. At the Conference held in the fall of 1817, the "Limestone Circuit" was "set off," embracing all of Limestone county east of Elk River, and a portion of Madison, including Trianna, and a small trip along the Western and southwestern portions of Madison. During this Conference year to-wit, from October, 1817, to October, 1818, Mr. B. bought a small farm in the neighborhood of Sand Spring, about half way to the Aiken plantation, and removed his family from Madison County to it in the north of January, 1818. Here he lived until 1824, when he purchased a place on the Huntsville Road, six miles east of Athens, and lived there until the year 1841, when he purchased a home in Athens and at once removed to it, where he lived until August 25, 1845, when, in the afternoon of that day, he departed this life, and went to his reward on high. The few latter years of his life, Mr. Butcher had to contend with, and bear up under sore and heavy family afflictions, almost too heavy to be borne, yet he bore himself manfully, cheerfully—yea, Christianly. He did much and good work in this county from the year 1813, until his death in 1845. A few years during this long period, he was sent off from his home. In the year 1838, he was stationed in Winchester; in 1839, in Murfreesboro, and in 1840, in Clarksville. For very many years he was Presiding Elder, but his labors were so protracted, that we have not space to enumerate his appointments, or to specify, more particularly, the different important positions he sustained to the Church. We may be excused for adding here, that in the Journals of the General Conference of 1828, of which Mr. B. was a member, his

name first occurs, so far as my research has extended, spelt "Boucher."

Mr. Boucher had a warm, Genial heart, full of the amenities, and kindly affections of our better natures; was eminently social; his face always beaming with the sun-shine of love and goodness, and was notably capable of making himself beloved, in all companies, and by all descriptions of character. He was thus pre-eminently fitted to carry the "Gospel of the Kingdom," to Indians, Squatters and "back-woodsmen." This he did most successfully, being distinguished for his success in "laying out" new Circuits, and building up new societies. Indeed, his popularity with the above classes, was so extensive, deep and universal that it was a subject of much and intense prayer on his part. The writer has heard him express his solicitude, in relation to this matter, on many occasions. Mr. Boucher performed a work for this county, in these early territorial days, for which he was highly gifted, and which resulted in bringing many thousands of strong, uneducated men and women within the sweet, humanising influences of religion. Having such a happy disposition, being a good singer, and a fine performer on the violin, he could go into the rudest settlements, and in a few days, have all, both men and women, collected in some spacious log-cabin, quietly listening to the "Story of the Cross." Mr. Boucher's remains lie in the old burial ground here, covered by a stately marble monument.

Respectfully,

June 29, 1867.

T.S.M.

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State of Alabama.

The Athens Post, Thursday,  
July 11, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 2.

"Scraps,"

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

Number Nineteen.

REV. GILBERT D. TAYLOR, M.D.

Mr. Taylor was born in Virginia, of highly respectable

parents, who were distinguished for talents, as well as for their marked probity. He was well educated; studied medicine; attended lectures in Philadelphia, then the ablest medical school in America, won his diploma, and shortly thereafter, in 1810, (I think) moved to Huntsville and settled there, to pursue the practice of his chosen profession. Some few years after this, he made a public profession of faith in Jesus, and applied for and obtained license to preach the Gospel. In 1819, he settled in Limestone County and placed on this circuit, with Rev. Joshua Boucher. In 1820, Dr. Taylor again rode this circuit, and did most faithful and efficient work. In those days it was no holiday work to "ride Limestone County;" There were twenty nine to thirty appointments, scattered over this county, and a considerable portion of Madison County; and in addition to this every-day preaching, the minister was expected to hold meetings nearly or quite every night, at some friend's house, where the nearer neighbors would collect and sing and pray, shout and preach till late bed time. The work was heavy, laborious, leaving no time for trifling or play, and none too much for study and private meditation. Dr. Taylor was a conscientious, earnest Christian minister and did very much to impress society favorably in respect to Christianity and Christian ministers. His dignified deportment, and consistent walk, did much to elevate the moral tone of society, and to educate the church to claim a higher standard of ministerial attainments. In addition to his important and useful ministerial labors, the Dr. very successfully pursued his practice for many years in this county. After great and protracted labors, both in the ministerial and medical fields, the Doctor resides in Giles County, Tennessee; in a green old age, and calmly reviews a protracted life, well spent in the service of his Master. May God deal mercifully with his faithful old servant, and in his "good time" take him to eternal rest.

#### REV. JOHN M. CHERRY

Mr. Cherry was born in 1773, in South Carolina. Of his parentage and early life we know very little. We learn he was a moral, upright young man; firmly opposed to all evil-doers and every evil way. He settled in this country in 1819, and was then

a sober, dignified preacher of the Gospel. He was never, so far as I know, identified with the Itineracy, but remained in the local ranks until death, which occurred suddenly, by supposed foul means, at Fulton, in Limestone County, 1844. Mr. Cherry filled the pulpit in this town occasionally, for many years, and had regular appointments in different neighborhoods in the county, during this entire period. He was very fond of Camp-meetings, and was very useful in carrying them on. He was a good singer, very able in prayer, and one of the best altar workers. His style of delivery in the pulpit was slow, at times hesitating but when warmed up by the "Unction of the Spirit," he was eloquent, powerful. We have listened to him often, and when the "Inspiration" was upon him, have heard moving appeals from him. But in summing up our estimate, of his character, we must be candid: We esteemed the beautiful consistency of his Christian walk; his inflexible integrity; his fidelity to his Savior; his meekness and unpretending piety, and his undeviating honesty of purpose in all he said and did, as having more influence for religion on the community than his pulpit performances. We knew him from our childhood, and never a single instance did we ever hear, "a railing accusation," made against the character, or integrity of Tom Cherry, even by the bitterest revilers of Christianity. In his day, among this people, he did a good work. Though his death was violent, sudden, we have not the shadow of a doubt but that he rests from his labors. He has two faithful, efficient sons in the Tennessee Conference. May God give them grace to walk in their fathers footsteps, with the same fixedness of purpose and fidelity to his honor and glory, that he manifested in walking in his Savior's.

Respectfully,

July 7, 1867.

T.S.M.

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State of Alabama.

The Athens Post, Thursday,  
July 18, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 2.

“Scraps,”

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

Number Twenty

REV. DANIEL DOW THOMPSON, A.M.

Mr. Thompson was a Scotchman; said to have been thoroughly educated in his native country previous to his emmigration thence. When he came to this country, I know not, but remember to have found him here early in the spring of 1818; he then lived in Madison county, a few miles west of Huntsville. He was the first man I heard preach in Alabama, as one of his appointments was at a neighbor's one mile from my fathers residence, where the circuit preacher had a two weeks appointment, and where my parents first held membership in this country. Father Thompson was a remarkable man in several respects, in mind, morals and in dress. In mind, he was severely analytical, sure and solid; in morals, he was austere, rigid and unyielding; I had nearly written “Pharisaical;” in dress, he was unique, *sui generis*. He wore always a black, straight breasted coat; a broad-brimmed, low crowned hat; short breeches; long white stockings; knee-buckles; low vamped shoes, with a large buckle on the top of each; was tall and straight; top of head slightly ball; long, thin hair, hanging down to his shoulders. In the pulpit, his manner was solemn and dignified, and his delivery slow, clear and emphatic; he was a strong man in doctrines, and especially in exegesis; in this latter he had few superiors; being learned and precise in all that he said or wrote, he was eminently schollarly in his pulpit performances. With cavillers; skeptics and infidels of every type and grade, he delt sharply and unsparingly. They generally avoided him; his large and accurate information, and his profound acquaintance with the languages of the Bible, giving him advantages not easy to contend, successfully with. He

was a local preacher, his profession being that of teacher. He had appointments in Limestone as early as 1818, how much earlier, I do not know. He was one of the most rigid, self-denying men I ever knew. He was careful to shun the least appearance of evil, in all and every shape, and was prompt and inexorable in his condemnation of it in others. I remember well his decided and inflexible opposition to, and censure of certain religious exercises, practised, to some extent, in those early days in this county, and known as jerks, dancings, mewings, backings, etc., etc. We would frequently declare from the pulpit his firm belief that they were "Animal, hypocritical, and originated with the Devil, to bring religion into disrepute. "His sound, logical and scriptural sermons; his unimpeachable and humble walk, and his decided scholarship enabled him to wield an influence for good on society, that was deep and widespread and lasting. He ultimately removed to Giles County, where he employed himself industriously in teaching and preaching, until at a good old age, like the great Apostle of the Gentiles, having fought a good fight, and kept the "Faith", he, "fell on sleep," and now rests with the fathers.

Respectfully,

July 15, 1867.

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T.S.M.

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The Athens Post, Thursday  
July 25, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 2.

"Scraps,"

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

Number Twenty One.

#### LOCAL METHODIST PREACHERS.

We propose to notice, hastily, in this number, a few of the earlier local ministers, who exercised much influence in the formation of the public sentiment of the first settlers, and we

shall use the most reliable information we have been able to collect:

REV. MR. HARRIS.

This gentleman was preaching at various points in the county as early as 1810, and left the county for the "Forka-deer" country in 1819. He is said to have been a zealous, earnest, plain preacher; a good, exemplary Christian man, and a very decided opposer of the use of spiritous liquors by the ministry or membership of the Church, a rather noticeable trait in those days. I learn he died happy, triumphantly, in the western District of Tennessee, in 1824.

REV. ISRAEL WALKER.

This gentleman labored in this County, from 1816 to 1823, with decided success; he is said to have been remarkably firm and decided in his morals; his religious character having been "without spot or blemish," during his whole life. He was a plain, practical preacher, but very able in Scriptures, and somewhat a "revivalist." It is believed that he died in this county, and I doubt not "triumphantly," from the very strong testimonials I have of his decided piety; Celteric paribus, men almost die as they live. There is doubt in my mind as to where and when he departed.

REV. RICKETTS COPELAND.

Of this gentleman, I have been unable to get many particulars. I learn he labored in this county from 1816 to 1822 or 1823, and that he was an acceptable minister, and well received in all his appointments. The local preacher of that day did much more work than the same class perform in this day. They, as a class, generally filled two appointments every Sabbath, and all of them, I think, had night appointments; through the week. It not unfrequently happened that the Circuit preacher was absent, from sickness, high water, or on a visit to their families, when a "local" would take the Circuit and fill all of his appointments;



there was to be no failure on the "regular circuit day." "We know nothing of the time, or place, or manner of Mr. Copeland's death, but take it as a matter to be assumed, on our platform, that his end was peace, as his life had been one of exemplary piety.

REV. JOHN NEDSON, M.D.

Dr. Nelson was a native of Virginia. was educated and graduated in Medicine, which he practiced in the Southern portion of this county from his first settlement here, in 1817. He was esteemed a good safe, practical Physician, and I am told did a pretty good practice. As a preacher he was rather above an average; he was very genteel in his dress, and polite and affable in his manners. His delivery in the pulpit was slow, deliberate, impressive and solemn; his style chaste, clear exhaustive and scholarly. His practical every day life was a consistent, beautiful commentary on his public Christian profession. Dr. Nelson exerted an excellent, salvable influence on the community, and his example added much to that influence which the Gospel, through its ministers and members, exerted in raising, elevating and refining this new community, and which we, heretofore, have claimed as a distinguishing mark of Limestone civilization; for however little weight skeptics may choose to allow to these claims, yet the Court records accords with the impressions of the writer, and fully vindicate our seemingly pretentious and vain Coastings, and we fixedly persist in attributing it to the faithful men of God, who early settled and labored in this County. We claim more; their teachings and eminently pious and consistent lives are still operating, through their sons and daughters, and grandchildren, for good in this county. Dr. Nelson, in this aspect of matters, deserves a very high position, for his life and example were pure, eminently conservative and salutary. We learn he died in great peace.

We propose to "finish up," in our next number, the notice we shall take of early local preachers, and enter on something else. We have deemed these short and very imperfect sketches very



proper and timely as the local preachers had very much to do in giving tone and character to our first settlers.

Respectfully,

T.S.M.

July 20, 1867.

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Page 2, Column 2.

“Scraps,”

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

Number Twenty Two.

#### LOCAL METHODIST PREACHER, REV. JOHN MOORE

Mr. Moore was born in Virginia, I think, in 1758; at a very early age he made a “profession of religion,” under the preaching of the celebrated Jessee Lee, and at once attached himself to the Methodist Episcopal Church, and soon thereafter applied for and obtained license to preach, which he retained and never dishonored to the end of his protracted life, which occurred, I believe, in 1854 or 1855.—Mr. Moore was said to be—preacher, at his death, in America, having been about Seventy Eight years a licensed Minister. He settled in this county in the spring of 1817, on Limestone Creek, nine miles east of Athens, where he lived until his death. Preacher Moore did not preach extensively, or indeed much, in this county, owing to his feebleness of body, and especially of voice, which he nearly lost many years before his death. He exercised a good influence, however, by his decided piety, gentle, Christian manners, and in his daily walk and conversation. He died as he had lived, quietly, calmly, peacefully.

#### REV. SAMPSON LANE

Mr. Lane came to this county from Georgia, in the year 1818. He had a plain education, but was a man of very decided

abilities. At an early day here, from 1820 to 1828, he was esteemed by many as one of the ablest pulpit men in our county, in the local ranks, and was not unfrequently called upon to fill the pulpit on most important occasions. Though an able and logical sermoniser, I believe he was never very popular with the great mass of the population; objections being taken to his cold austere manners, and to the obstinacy with which he adhered to his own notions and views; so much so that he was even accused of being a "theological dogmatist. He was very fond of discussion, in the private circle, especially knotty, mythical subjects, and took great delight in unravelling the most intricate theological theorems. I think he seldom entered the pulpit after 1830 or 1831, when he turned his attention more directly to "money making." To this end he subsequently gave all his energies, and in 1836, May, he entered largely into the purchase of lands, at the Pontotoc Land Sale;" removed to that section, and subsequently to Memphis, where I think he ended his days. "Ye cannot serve God and Mammon."

#### REV. QUINN MORTON

Mr. Morton was a laborer here at an early day, certainly in 1818; how much earlier, I cannot say. He is believed to have been a native of Georgia or South Carolina. At some of our earliest camp-meetings, Mr. Morton was present, and preached with much apparent success. He was a man of Warm, ardent temperament, and acquired somewhat the character of a "revivalist;" hence his services were much in demand, and for some years Mr. Morton did much work, and with marked results. He exerted a fine influence until he was seduced into the political field, when his moral influence was decidedly weakened, and the confidence of many good men lessened in his piety. The last few years Mr. Morton lived in this county, his energies were pretty equally divided between the pulpit and the political arena. He was a man of stout, robust, physical frame, and a strong, vigorous mind, and of liberal Catholic views; made friends readily, and was himself a good reliable friend. He move from this county. I think, about the year 1828, to Tuscumbia, in which place, and vicinity he lived and preached occasionally; for several years, and died. Peace to his memory.

## REV. JOHN NELSON.

Mr. Nelson lived, and for the most part, labored in the Southern portion of the county. When he came here, and from what State, I have not been able to learn. He was here laboring at a very early date. I knew and heard him as early as 1820. He was noted for his uniform piety, and his humble and meek demeanor, rather than for his pulpit ability. He was, however, no "Mean preacher," but a plain, simple Scriptural expounder, and warm, tender exhorter. In a word, he was a very good man, and did much good in building up believers, and in strengthening the feeble and weak. Mr. Nelson died as he had lived, a happy, satisfied, Christian man." Requiescat in "Pace."

Thus ends our notices of the "Local Methodist Preachers" of 1810 to 1820. We believe we have omitted no one of any mark; at least, we are unaware of having done so.

We propose to notice a few Cumberland brethren in some future numbers. We would be obliged to any one who would post us as to some of our prominent Baptist preachers of the early times.

Respectfully,

T.S.M.

July 27, 1867.

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The Athens Post, Thursday,  
August 8, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 2.

"Scraps,"

Relating to the early History of Limestone County.

Number Twenty Three.

We have been querrelously asked, time and again, why we have so much to say about the "Preachers" of the early days of the settlement of this county, and why we do not proceed with the

political history—the formation of parties, etc, etc? We beg leave to give a few of the reasons just here. The growth of a Church or the Church, (in its different branches,) has much to do in the history of a country. Writers of secular history, as well as political economist, generally trace the development of the history of a country though all the phases of its history, in the introduction and development of its agriculture, commerce, immigration, mechanical and manufacturing arts, mining resources, etc etc., ignoring the religious element altogether. Why should they thus effect ignorance of Christianity as an element of power in the State? Yes an element of tremendous power; not of political, but of moral power; a secret power, perhaps more unnoticed by the civilian or politician, but yet potential for good; cementing society together, giving cast and tone to its laws, enactments, etc. The utterances of these bold, brave, but humble and hardy men, entered into the thoughts, and became part and parcel of the night as well as of the day-dreams and acts of the early settlers, and thus influenced their domestic and social life; their school system; their civil and political combinations; their county and State administrations, and thus effecting and influencing more or less powerfully the Legislative, judicial and executive actions for good. How much of the enlightened and liberal spirit that characterized the society and laws, and general deportment of the first citizens of Limestone, is due to the labors of these humble, but great and good men, in the rude cabins of the early settlers, we may never know. But we might possibly approximate the truth, if we possessed these data; how many actors and voters were under the influence of these laborious men; perhaps a large majority, then we would claim all that is good in our earlier and better days, as traceable to their savoury, salving influence. Unfortunately, as I receive, the most of these data—the amount of labor performed, the items of our early Church history, as well as the particulars of the lives, self-denials hardships, deprivations, and success of these self-sacrificing and heroic men, in these rude Indian times, are passed away with the actors themselves, and are lost to us, I beg to quote from a gifted and scholarly historian: “Those early Christian laborers—labors in the corn-field, and the domestic truck-patch; alike as in the Lord’s vineyard, may not have been taller in stature, or greater in

intellect than other men, or more polished in their attainments, than many amongst us at this day, but they were moral Anakins, with physical endurance equal to their moral courage; and with the divine endorsement equal to their self-consecration, they could found a church or rule an empire." We now (when it is too late,) or at least some of us, wish to know more of their travels and trials; of their preaching and piety; of their members, measures, and administration. We (this entire community) owe them a debt of gratitude, we are utterly unable to pay; and to furnish what I may be able, is the reason why I have given so much prominence, in the previous numbers, to the short, and very imperfect, sketches of the preachers. I propose to pursue this course still further, and then I may give some numbers respecting politicians and government.

Respectfully,

T.S.M.

August 3, 1867.

Transcribed from original  
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State of Alabama.

The Athens Post, Thursday,  
August 15, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 2.

"Scraps,"

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

Number Twenty Four.

### BAPTIST—REV. JERE TUCKER

Mr. Tucker moved to this county early in the spring of 1817, from Wilson County, Tennessee. I have heretofore stated that he immediately made an appointment at the "Old Baptist Church," on Round Island, not far from the residence of Mr. Richard Henderson, and on the land now owned by him. Mr. Tom Obanion was at the same time occupying two Sabbaths in the month, at that Church. The congregation preferred the services of Mr. Tucker dismissed Mr. Obanion and employed Mr. Tucker as their regular

minister. Mr. Tucker continued to serve the same congregation for many years, with great acceptability.

A few years later, the congregation moved their membership to the church they built on Brown's Ferry Road, five and a half miles from this place and retained Mr. Tucker, I think, as their Minister, until 1837, when he removed to Mississippi, where he died in a few years suddenly, at his breakfast table. Mr. Tucker was an original "Hard-Shell" Baptist, but some twelve or fifteen years after settling in this county, he became a "Missionary Baptist" and lived and labored and die in the Church. He was an uneducated man, but of strong common sense, and an earnest, honest Minister. His character was consistent and honorable in all of his dealings, and all parties reposed the utmost confidence in his professions and promises. He was occasionally placed in responsible positions in county transactions; his ministerial services, I believe, were mostly confined to this county; he served the congregation for many years in this town, and gave, I believe, entire satisfaction to his people. While we cannot say that Mr. Tucker was an able preacher, we can say, as we think, in all truthfulness, that he was a faithful, good, conscientious Christian Minister, who served his day and generation to the best of his ability, using and improving his talent with all diligence and fidelity. He, too, made a good impression on society, in favor of religion and pure morals by his excellent character, as a good citizen, in all the relations of life. His memory is pleasant to us, for we well remember his straight-forward uprightness. The citizens of this county were blessed with the ministerial services, at that early day, of many other Baptist Ministers, good men and true, but of whose history we are so ignorant, as to be able to furnish anything of interest as to their early raising, education, or labors, are forced to content ourselves with the following and unsatisfactory and running statements. Rev. Mr. John L. Towns frequently preached in this county; he was an educated, able divine; we believe he lived in Lawrence county; truly pious, good man, and the father in law of the distinguished and accomplished Mr. D. P. Bester, now of Columbus Miss., and of whom we expect to write more at large, in a future number. Rev. Mr. Wm. Eddins labored in the Northern portion of the county, at a

very early, and occasionally in other portions of the county; he lived in Madison County, was a plain common preacher, and a good man, and is said to have been useful, (*torn out*) Shackleford labored much at an early day in this county; he is represented to me as very zealous, ardent, practical preacher. I have no recollection of ever having heard of him, but have heard of him, as a very useful earnest Christian minister. The Rev. Zadec Baker was another early pioneer minister in this county; he is spoken of as been useful and pious, and though a plain, illiterate man, yet he, by his consistant and humble walk, and great earnestness in his appeals to sinners, affected much and lasting good among those classes to whom he ministered.

August 9, 1867.

Respectfully,  
T.S.M.

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Page 2, Column 2.

“Scraps,”

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County

Number Twenty Five.

Session of the General Assembly of 1819.

In the previous number we noticed the assembling of the Territorial Convention, in Huntsville, on the 5th day of July, 1819, and called attention to the fact, that they not only arranged for the admission of Alabama into the Union, at the next meeting of Congress, but directed elections to be held in each county for Senator and Representatives, who were to meet in Huntsville, on the first of the ensuing December, to constitute the first General Assembly of the State. We gave a hurried notice of some of the acts of that convention, as also of some of its members. We now propose to call up the sessions of the General Assembly, annually,



to give the names of our representatives, and as far as we may be able, some notice of each individual. We do not propose to notice those who have heretofore been under our review—. The estimate we put on members will be our own in most cases; In some few they will be taken from our friends.

#### THOMAS BIBB, STATE SENATOR, GOVERNOR.

Mr. James Titus had represented Limestone in the Territorial Council, or as Senator until 1819, when the people were called upon to elect a Senator for this county, to serve for a given number of years, they elected Mr. Thomas Bibb to this responsible position. Of Mr. B. as a member of the convention, and as the "Chief Justice of the Magistrates Court," we have heretofore spoken. As State Senator he served but a short time; his brother, Governor Wm. Wyatt Bibb, having received an injury from the falling of his horse, died in the spring of 1820, our Senator being President of the Senate, was ex-officio by virtue of that office-Governor of the State. He was at once inducted into, this, then very responsible and honorable position, and served out the term for which his brother was elected with decided credit to himself, and I believe, to the satisfaction of the people of the State. Governor Thomas Bibb ranked as a Statesman, with the first men of the State, and was noted alike for his integrity and patriotism, as for his very distinguished abilities; he was unquestionably a man of very high order of talents; he lived to an old age, and served the people of his county subsequently, in many and various capacities; he died in Huntsville.

#### NICHOLAS DAVIS, JAMES W. EXUM, AND WM. WHITAKER, REPRESENTATIVES.

Of the Hon. Nicholas Davis, we have heretofore written somewhat at length, and perhaps our high estimate of him, as a man, a statesman, and an orator, has been sufficiently expressed, at least, for fear of carrying it ad manseum, we will desist.

Mr. Exum was a man of plain, common, political sense. I believe he was surveyor by profession, and for a series of years Postmaster of this town. He was noted more for his mildness, kindness of heart, and great accommodativeness, than for his statesmanship, or political sagacity; indeed, I learn that his friends



based his claims to office on his goodness of disposition, and his very general acquaintance with the people's condition, wants and necessities. In a word Mr. Exum was a plain, weak man, intellectually. He served Limestone County, as her Representative, in 1819, and in 1824, and again in 1826. During his last service, he was appointed by the General Government as Marshall of the Young Territory of Florida whither he promptly went, and lived out his days and died. I believe, in 1832. Mr. Whitaker was third on the list; he lived on the west side of Elks River, where Mr. James Coffman now lives; he is represented to me as a bold, ruff, blustering, dashing old man; he was again elected to represent the people of this county in 1823. Mr. Whitakers friends made no claims of scholarship, or statesmanship, for him, in urging his pretensions for preferment, but simply claimed that the "over Elks-people," were entitled to one Representative. Mr. W. left the county, I believe, in 1825, and settled for a short time in Western Tennessee, and then moved to Arkansas, where he soon after died.

This session of the General Assembly passed very few acts, touching Limestone County, especially. The act, to establish the seat of Justice (Athens) for this county, was passed 3d of December, 1819, which I have already published. The act, passed December 14th, 1819 to establish an inferior Court, in every county of the State, "to consist of five Justices, to be appointed by the Legislature, to hold their offices during good behavior; one of their number, to be chosen by themselves, to be Chief Justice, etc., etc. we have heretofore alluded to, and made observations on it. We find nothing more, touching our county, deserving special notice.

Respectfully,

T.S.M.

August 17, 1867.

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Page 2, Column 2.

"Scraps,"

Number Twenty Six.

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—HON. NICHOLAS DAVIS, SENATOR; JOHN S. DOXEY, Wm. EDMONDSON, AND QUINN MORTON, REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Davis was elected to fill the place vacated by Mr. Thomas Bibb, as heretofore stated, and he continued to be elected, at every returning Senatorial election until 1829, when he voluntarily withdrew, to make the canvass for Congress. In 1825, Mr. Davis, was, I believe, unanimously elected president of the Senate, which honorable and responsible position he continued until his retirement in 1829.

Mr. Doxey, the first on the list in 1820, as representative, was a genteel, educated, intelligent gentleman. He is represented as a man of more than ordinary ability, and very well posted for that day, in governmental and financial matters. He discharged his representatives duties satisfactorily to his constituents, and at the end of the session retired from the political field. In a year or two thereafter he left the State, and settled in Davidson county, a few miles from Nashville. He married a Miss Jennings; he and his wife both being natives of Virginia.

Mr. Edmundson was a school teacher, the second man the writer went to school to; a farmer and a politician; he was not pre-eminent in either of these Spheres. He moved from Murrah county, Tennessee, at a very early day, to Lincoln County, and in 1817, came to this county. He represented the county in the lower House in 1820; 1821, 1822, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, and 1828. In 1829, Hon. Nicholas Davis having resigned to make the can-

vass for Congress Mr. Edmundson was elected Senator for this county, and the regular election coming on in 1830, he again offered himself and was elected for the usual term of three years. Mr. Edmundson served out this, ending in 1833, and then left the county, and settled in or near Pontotoc, where he lived until his death, which occurred in two or three years. It will thus appear that Mr. Edmundson was a servant of the people of Limestone county for the space of thirteen years. Mr. Edmundson's peculiar qualifications, for representing the citizens of his county so long, are a legitimate subject of inquiry; what were those qualities of head, or heart, that gave him such strong hold on the affections of his constituents? I am inclined to believe that they were of a negative character; he, most assuredly was no Statesman; he was not a scholar; he was not a man of enlarged intelligence, nor of strong mind, in any sense whatever. His positive qualities, if I may so term, were these: He was quiet, modest, unobtrusive, unmeddlesome; of easy, gentle manners; polite, discreet, prudent, and always played "mum." I am told he never made a public speech during his long service, either before the people or in the General Assembly, and thus put himself on the records only by his votes, and hence his long-continued success.

Of Mr. Quinn Morton, we have written at some considerable length, and with some particularity, under another head. He differed widely from his colleagues just noticed; he was a man of very decided characteristics, and of a vigorous, strong, mind, and of large intelligence. He made himself felt and feared by his opponents on all important questions. He was a man of marked loquaciousness, and pretty respectable declamatory powers. I neglected to state in its appropriate place, that Mr. Morton was elected and served in 1820, 1821, 1822, 1824, and 1825. Perhaps politics were not his "fort" and if he had eschewed everything else, cleaved alone to the pulpit, he would have made a distinguished evangelist. He settled, after leaving this county, at the half-way House, from Tuscumbia to South Florence, where he engaged in agriculture and preaching, until his death, which occurred about the year 1836. He died in peace. The only noticeable act I find in the legislation of this year touching the interest of this county, was an act declaring Limestone "river" navigable, and a public highway. The act authorized the "Justice's Court"

to levy" a tax to clear out obstructions, and to assess a fine of five dollars on any man who shall fell a tree into the "river," and three dollars for every day said offender shall permit the tree to lie in the river.

Respectfully,  
T.S.M.

August 23, 1867.

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Page 2, Column 2.

"Scraps,"

Number twenty Seven.

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NOVEMBER 1", 1821—SENATOR  
NICHOLAS DAVIS, REPRESENTATIVES, Wm. EDMUND-  
SON, BERRY MURRELL AND QUIN MORTON.

The members, noticed in the last number were the Representatives for the session of 1820, and the writer or printer, one or the other, omitted the date of it. There is only one new member in this session viz: Mr. Murrell. His name was given in one of the earlier numbers, as among those men, who came from Roane county, East Tennessee, into this then Mississippi Territory, occupied and held by the Indians, in the fall of 1807; prospected the country, selected sites for buildings, made some improvements, and returned for their families, and brought them out in 1808. Mr. Murrell selected a piece of ground, near the church, as it now stands, at New Garden, improved it, and lived there for many years. He was the father of the present highly estimable lady, the widow of Levesque. Mr Murrell was noted for his honesty, truthfulness and benevolence. I am told he was emphatically a good man, but preferred no claims to learning, or statesmanship; his wide acquaintance and good character sent him to the Legislature.

At this session of the Legislature, three small acts were passed to-wit: an act to extend the boundaries of the county, to include the "fork between the rivers, Tennessee and Elk; it being all the land north of the Tennessee river and west of the Western boundary line of range 6," about thirty Seven Hundred acres.—The second act, to establish an election precinct at the House of Edward Massie. And the third, an act to remove an election precinct from Straing's Mills, to Edmund Straing's dwelling House in said county." Passed December 3d, 1821-1822—Fourth Session—Senator, NICHOLAS DAVIS; REPRESENTATIVES, WOODSON MONTGOMERY, QUINN MORTON Wm. EDMUNDSON, JOSHUA L. MARTIN.

Dr. Montgomery came to this county in 1819, or 1820, and settled in Mooresville. I learn that he did a good practice, and was esteemed an honorable member of the profession. He was a Kentuckian, and liberally educated, and a man of very decided promise, with elegant manners, and of a large, fine personal appearance. I believe he was before the people, for political office, only one time, in 1822, and then he ran at the head of the list. How he discharged his duties as Legislator, I am uninformed. He resumed the practice of his profession, and pursued it diligently, until 1827, when he succumbed to the great enemy, Death.

Joshua L. Martin, we have heretofore noticed, as Governor of the State. He was a man of popular manners, of a good presence, and considerable abilities; by profession a Lawyer, and I believe a very successful one. He filled many political offices; was a representative of this county in 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, and in 1827. He represented this District in the United States House of Representatives for two sessions, and was for a few years, Judge of the Circuit Court of this Judicial District. In all of these important trusts, Gov. Martin acquitted himself with decided commendation. Many years ago he moved to Tuscaloosa, in which city he continued to reside until death overtook him. He had a more than ordinary knowledge of men and things, and was active and energetic in the pursuit of whatever he undertook.

At this General Assembly, to-wit: December 21st 1822, an act was passed directing the entire State into three Districts, for the purpose of electing Representatives to Congress; the Northern district was composed of the following counties: Madison, Jackson, Decatur, (Morgan I presume) Limestone, Lauderdale and Lawrence. An act was passed December 31st. 1822 "that county court of Limestone county, shall not have power to compel hands to work in opening the navigation of Limestone river, in said county."

This session is remarkable for the great debate on the proposition to charter a State Bank. Hons. A. F. Hopkins and Nich Davis distinguished themselves in able eloquence to defeat this State Bank scheme, but were overboud by members, only thirteen, on the final votes against this seemingly pet scheme; among these were the two gentlemen above named, and Judge J. L. Martin. The financial troubles and distress that were so eloquently depicted by Messrs Hopkins and Davis folowed in due time.

Respectfully,

T.S.M.

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Page 2, Column 2.

"Scraps,"

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

Number Twenty Eight.

FITH SESSION-THIRD MONDAY IN NOVEMBER, 1823,  
SENATOR, NICHOLAS DAVIS. REPRESENTATIVES, JOHN  
W. SMITH, JOSEPH POWELL, Wm. WHITTAKER, JOSHUA  
L. MARTIN.

The first two on the list of Representatives, Messrs Smith and Powell are to be noticed. Mr. Smith came into this county

at any early date—supposed to have been in 1816, from Georgia. He settled on the place where Mr. John Holt now lives, and after a few years moved into town, and kept a hotel here for several years. Mr. Smith moved from here in 1826 to Florida, where he died. He ran for the Legislature in this year (1823) only, and was elected, being at the head of the list. He was afterwards solicited to run again, but declined, remarking that he was very thankful, that although very simple, he yet had sense enough to know that he had no business in the Legislature. Mr. Smith was a plain, unpretending kind, good man, with a very ordinary mind, and that not cultivated to any great extent.

Mr. Joseph Powell came into this county at an early day; and settled at the Booth Malone Cross Roads. He subsequently sold off a part of his land to Rev. B. Malone, and in 1826 the remainder of it to the late James C. Malone. He came from Tennessee, and in the year 1827, he returned to the same State, where he lived a few years, and died. Mr. Powell represented this county, in the lower House, this year 1823, and in 1826. He was a man of very moderate abilities, uneducated, uncultivated, and of no experience in statesmanship. He had the character of being an honest man; a neat frugal farmer, and no doubt came to appreciate the fact, that this was his appropriate sphere of industry. I learned afterwards adhered to it.

Of the other gentlemen, representing Limestone county this year, I have heretofore spoken.

SIXTH SESSION—THIRD MONDAY, NOVEMBER, 1824—  
SENATOR, NICHOLAS DAVIS: REPRESENTATIVES QUINN  
MORTON, J. L. MARTIN, Wm. EDMUNDSON AND JAMES  
W. EXUM.

Of all the above members, I have written pretty freely, perhaps so as my object requires.

SEVENTH SESSION, 1825—SENATOR NICHOLAS DAVIS, REPRESENTATIVES, WADDY TATE, QUINN MORTON, WM. EDMUNDSON AND JOSHUA L. MARTIN.

Dr. Tate is the only new member in this session of the General Assembly from Limestone county. He moved into this State at a very early date, and settled I believe, in Huntsville, till the land sale, in 1818, at which he purchased much land, among other tracts, one on Limestone Creek, on the Township Road, about thirteen miles east of Athens, where in 1825, he built a fine residence, now owned by Major Anderson. For many years the Doctor lived at the above place. Afterwards he settled and lived in Athens for a few years, and then went to Texas, and lived, and died with his son, Judge F. Tate. Dr. Tate represented this county in the State Legislature for this year (1825), and once or twice subsequently ran for the same place, but failed of an election, until 1831, when he was again returned to the lower House of the General Assembly. Dr. Tate enjoyed advantages of an educational character, and other facilities, which were unusual in those times, in this section, to inform himself, but cultivated them to limited extent only. He was, however, an educated man, with some pretensions to statesmanship, and of moderate abilities.

I am unable to find any acts of importance passed these years in direct relation to Limestone. In 1823 and 1824, an act was passed declaring Limestone Creek not a navigable "river".

Respectfully,

T.S.M.

Sept. 16, 1867.



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Page 2, Column 1 2.

“Scraps,”

Relating to the Early days of Limestone County.

Number Twenty Nine.

EIGHTH SESSION, THIRD MONDAY IN NOVEMBER,  
1826—SENATOR NICHOLAS DAVIS: REPRESENTATIVES,  
Wm. EDMUNDSON, JOSEPH POWELL, JOSEPH BELL AND  
JAMES W. EXUM.

The only new member in this General Assembly, from Limestone county was, Mr. Joseph Bell. Mr. Bell was a free spoken, open handed man, without those early advantages and facilities, of an educated character, which some others enjoyed; he was, however, a man of a lively mind, and of quick apprehension, and esteemed a good electioneer. Mr. Bell was a farmer cultivating on the road leading from Athens to Brown's Ferry, seven and a half miles from the former place, where he lived and died. He was a good citizen, and died regretted. He represented the county in 1827.

NINTH SESSION, THIRD MONDAY IN NOVEMBER,  
1827—SENATOR NICHOLAS DAVIS: REPRESENTATIVES,  
J. L. MARTIN, Wm. EXUM, W. P. ROBERTSON AND JOSEPH  
BELL

The new Limestone member this session was General Robertson; he lived between Nubbin Ridge and Triana, in what was known as the “Big———(?)”. He represented the county this session only, he was a lively, jolly, jovial man; with small pretensions, intellectually and of meagre cultivation; indeed but poorly fitted to deal with matters of Statesmanship; I presume his social qualities, coupled with his local position in the county, carried him to the Legislature.

TENTH SESSION, NOVEMBER, 1828 — SENATOR NICHOLAS DAVIS: REPRESENTATIVES, Wm. THOS. BIBB, AND Wm. SANDERS.

Mr. Sanders is the only one from this county not heretofore noticed, in the session of 1828. He came to this county from Georgia, at an early day, and soon attached to himself hosts of friends, who remained faithful to him to the end of his life, which occurred in July, 1840. Mr. Sanders represented this county four different sessions; I believe he was never left off the list, when a candidate before the people. He was a man of much more than ordinary native ability; was eminently social and liberal, and irregular terms afforded and had to rely exclusively for the attainment of Scholarship and position, on his own unaided efforts. But he succeeded fully in accomplishing position, influence and high respect, in several departments of human ambition. He first settled in Kentucky, near Lexington, where he engaged earnestly, in Schoolteaching, and was successful. He, while there, made profession of Religion, was baptised, licensed and ordained a Preacher of the Gospel.—As we have seen, he came here in the summer of 1823, and immediately opened a Female Seminary, of high grade, in which he educated either in whole, or in part, many of our Mothers. He subsequently at the head of several very distinguished high Female Institutions of learning; in La Grange, Alabama, Dr. Bester had charge of a very large, flourishing Female College in Greensboro, Alabama, he presided over, and successfully carried on the largest Female school, as to members, perhaps ever taught in the State.—Dr. Bester has practically, or wholly educated (he writes me) more than fifteen hundred girls; he was engaged for more than twenty years in teaching.

Dr. Bestor has filled successfully many of the most important pulpits in the south, in the spring of 1825, he was called to fill the Baptist pulpit in Huntsville, Ala. Subsequently in La Grange, Greensboro, Courtland, Sumpterville, Livingston and while in Mobile, in Alabama, and Columbus, Miss., where he now resides, and very acceptably filled the pulpit, for the very large and intelligent congregation of that City. Dr. Bestor never desired

political office, or preferment, yet for many years, he was sent as a Representative to the Alabama Legislature and subsequently to the Mississippi. He has many times been chosen President of the Baptist State Conventions; was for six years a Trustee of the State Ministry, at Tuscaloosa, and now holds the same relation to the Mississippi State University, and President of the "Orphans Home asylum," Dr. Bestor has baptised more than a thousand persons, and is now hale and harty, able to preach three or four sermons every week, generally preaching twice every Sabbath with ease and fluency.

Dr. Bestor's career and success through life, afforded a fine example for our young men to copy; affable, polite, of easy access, studious, pious, industrious we do not wonder at his having achieved success and preferment in so many fields. He accumulated a large property before the war, about eighty thousand dollars of which he lost, and two out of three, very promising sons. Dr. Bester first married the daughter of Rev. S. L. Towns, and his second wife was the daughter of Col. Blewett of Columbus Miss. May his last days be his happiest and most useful.

Respectfully,  
T.S.M.

September 26, 1857.

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Thursday, Oct. 3, 1867,  
Page 2, Columns 1 and 2.

"Scraps,"

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

Number Thirty.

The Baptist Church was organized in this town, in September, 1820, by the election of Rev. Jere Tucker, moderator, and James Golightly, as Clerk; and the adoption of a name for the Church, to wit: "Elim Church." The regular conferences of the Church were to be held on the Saturday before the fourth Sab-

bath in each month. At the regular conference held on Saturday before the fourth Sabbath in November, 1820, James Golightly was chose Deacon, and Owen Williams, Clerk. In the church conferences, held in July, 1821, Dr. John R. Evans was received by letter. "On the 25th" of April 1822, Brother Sam'l Tanner, was received by letter. On the 21st of October, 1822, Dr. John Favor was ordained a "Preacher of the Gospel" by Bros. Tucker, Byrd, Babb and Eddins. At a conference held March 22d. 1823, Dr. Evans was elected clerk of Elim Church, and Bob. S. Tanner assistant clerk. At the meeting April 26th, 1823, Brother Sam'l Tanner was elected Treasurer of Elim Church. At the conference held on the Saturday Before the fourth Sabbath in September, 1827, the church members unanimously voted to change the name of the church from that of "Elim" to that of "Athens." At conference held on the 27th of July, 1823, the subject of this paper, Rev. Daniel Bester handed in his letter, as a licensed Minister of the Baptist Church, and was received into full membership. Mr. Bester was the son of poor, but highly respected parents; was one of twelve children, and was thrown entirely almost on his own energies and efforts, to acquire education, support and responsibility and successively. The human will, humanely speaking, is almost omnipotent, and Dr. Bester's case, is but another instance, added to the tens of thousands, scattered through the experiences of the past ages, as made known to us, in the sketches of the great men of history, that by proper energy, industry, and self discipline, any and every may may obtain unto any position, or elevation, in learning, wisdom, honor and respectability, upon which he may choose to set his heart. Dr. Bester left the paternal homestead at a very early age, with only such an education, as a few perhaps possessed a keener sense of the ludicrous, and enjoyed "a good thing" more exquisitely than any one the writer remembers. With assiduous, preserving cultivation, Mr. Sanders might have made, had he lived, a man of mark. Again he was talented as an "electioneer."

ELEVENTH SESSION, NOVEMBER 1829—SENATOR Wm. EDMUNDSON; REPRESENTATIVES, GEORGE W. LANE, DANIEL COLEMAN AND THOMAS BIBB.

Hon. G. W. Lane received this year, about the largest vote ever cast in the county, for Representatives; indeed, I believe he ran far ahead of his competitors, every race he ran. He represented the county three different years, and was then elected by the General Assembly, Judge of the Circuit Court, for the District. Judge Lane came to this county, when a boy, in 1820, and was educated here; a portion of the time, a school-mate of the writer's. He was a man of very decided traits of character; of large brain, and of still larger heart and soul. He was what the writer would call, in a very emphatic sense a good man, with a good a heart as ever throbbed in any man's bosom. If he had possessed and practiced enough of energy and earnestness, in the cultivation of his mental abilities, as he did in the cultivation of the social emeanities of life, he woud have made a great man. Peace to his ashes; and revered be his many emiently good qualities.

TWELFTH SESSION, NOVEMBER, 1830--SENATOR WM. EDMUNDSON, REPRESENTATIVES WM. RICHARDSON AND WM. SANDERS.

Mr. Richardson's lamented death has so lately occured in our midst and he was so well, and so favorably known to us all, that I hesitate to write his name, lest it look too much like profamition. I need not call up, in these hastily written papers, his sterling integrity; his ripe scholarship; his safe, sound and discriminating judgment. His fidelity to every responsibility of life, nor his noble nature, before this people; all these are better known and realized by this community than I can depict them. He was averse to a political life, and merely consented to serve the people, as their Representative, to satisfy the numerous friends.

Nothing occured in the Legislature of the last few years noticed, especially concerning Limestone county. The only exciting topic seemed to be the one of the removal of the seat of Government to Tuscaloosa, which was finally carried the Limestone Delegation voting affirmatively.

Thus we have brought the Representation of the county, down to 1830, where for the present, we propose to leave it; many of our friends have differed with us, as to the estimate we have felt bound to place upon the abilities and services, of some of our Representatives; we are not surprised at this, nor did we expect it otherwise; and we only beg to say, once for all time—that these papers have been but too hastily and crudely prepared; they contain the truth, so far as we have been able to sift it out of much conflicting testimony. We propose next to bring up other branches of our subject.

September 21st, 1867.

Respectfully,

T.S.M.

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Copied from the original  
on file in the Archives and  
History, State of Alabama.

The Athens Post, Thursday,  
Oct. 17, 1867.  
Page 2, Colmn 2.

“Scraps,”

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

Number Thirty One.

REV. JAMES FARRIS—METHODIST.

I have failed in obtaining full information in relation to most of the preachers, who labored in this county, at an early day, and shall have to content myself, in but too many instances, with a bare announcement of their names, and the date of their ministry here.

Mr. Farris first made his appearance in this county in 1814; he subsequently visited Cambridge Campground, on two or three occasions, where his sermons produced most wonderful effects. The writer yet retains a lively impression of many of the effects produced by two of his sermons, at the above place. The first was

on the creation of Adam, and the law, as delivered to him by his maker; how that he pulled out an old looking red handkerchief, twisted it up into a form, sat it up on the hand-board, and addressed it as Adam. The effect, on the very large congregation, was most astonishing. On the other occasion alluded to, his text was the unfruitful tree. After pleading for its preservation, that it might be "dug about" and cultivated, and its still failing to bear fruit, the order was given, that it be cut down; the heart of the audience was wrought up to a very high pitch of excitement, and the preacher, looking up one of the trees forming a corner post of the stand, exclaimed, in his peculiar, sepulchral and emphatic voice, and my God, it leans so entirely hell-wards, that it cannot be made to fall any-where else, but must plunge into that dismal abyss. "The effect on the vast concourse of up-turned faces was tremendous. In 1829 he labored on the Franklin circuit, and the same wonderful effects were generally produced there that followed his occasional sermons in this county. Mr. Farris was a large, strong man in body, mind and heart; his delivery was slow and conversational, and the effects were greater, the writer thinks, than he ever witnessed under the pulpit ministrations of any other man. He was powerful in prayer, though they were noticably short and simple; and he enjoyed the reputation of spending more time in prayer, privately, than any Minister of his day, Rev. James McFerrin excepted. Mr. Farris, as was fully expected died most triumphantly and happily.

#### REV. THOS. STRINGFIELD—METHODIST

The Preachers who came next on the roll of "Circuit Riders" on Limestone circuit, Rev. Joshua Boucher and Dr. Gilbert D. Taylor, have heretofore been noticed. In the fall of 1819, Mr. Stringfield was sent to this circuit and "rode it" until the fall of 1820. Mr. Stringfield was a plain, upright, earnest, Christian gentleman. He for many years edited the Methodist religious paper published in Nashville. He was a close student, a prudent business man, and attained unto high position with his brethren and the conference; he was from East Tennessee, where he spent his last, peaceful, happy days, near Strawberry Plains; he died with "the harness on" in a green old age.

## REV. L. B. MARSHALL—METHODIST

Mr. Marshall was from East Tennessee, and I believe died there, too, in Knoxville. He was perhaps, most remarkable for earnestness and zeal than for any other qualities. He did the work of an Evangelist, in this county, faithfully and successfully, disregarding weather and every other common obstacle, he was always at his appointments, and entirely given to his calling. He labored on this circuit from the fall of 1820, to 1821.

Respectfully,

T.S.M.

October 12, 1867.

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Copied from the original on file  
in Archives and History, State of  
Alabama.

The Athens Post, Thursday,  
Nov. 7, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 3.

“Scraps,”

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

Number Thirty Three

## REV. JAMES M. MCFERRIN AND SAMUEL R. DAVIDSON

Mr. McFerrin was a second time sent to this circuit, Viz: In 1826. He is one of those men who would have been acceptable a score of years; and if the then law of the church would have permitted it, he would have been petitioned for, for an indefinite number of years. He was a man to make his mark, wherever he might be; an old sacred Soldier, with one ear off, lost bravely fighting in battle; he only seemed solicitous to do his whole duty to his God, and to save poor fallen man; he was, in a word, a spiritual giant, and shook the moral world all about and around him. We have not looked upon his peer since his demise. His colleague Samuel R. Davidson, was a good; a strict disciplinarian, and attentive to, and indefatigable in all of his ministerial duties.



In the fall of 1827, Joshua Boucher and A.L.P. Green were sent to this circuit. Dr. Green's letter says he was sent on this circuit in 1826, and this agrees with my own recollections, but I have followed the "Minutes," though I am confident they are wrong, and that Dr. Green came to this circuit in 1820, as the colleague of Mr. McFerrin; but feeling compelled to follow "Copy," I have been governed by the "Published Minutes" of Mr. Boucher we have written at length; and of Dr. Green there is no need that we write at all; his name, and fame are in all the churches; a man of enlarged, comprehensive, practical mind; he has governed the Tennessee Conference, to a large extent, for twenty or thirty years past; was a chief controller, in the suits of the church South, for its share of the property of the old consolidated Church, and has made himself felt in all of the General conferences for the last twenty five or thirty years. He is still active and energetic in the itinerant field. I believe Dr. Green is a native of Alabama, from Jackson County. May he live long to bless and serve the Church. His son William comes to the Athens Station this conference year. In the fall of 1828, Joshua Boucher and A. L. P. Green were again returned to this circuit.

Respectfully,

T.S.M.

November 2, 1867

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Copied from original on file  
in Archives and History, State  
of Alabama.

The Athens Post, Thursday,  
Nov. 14, 1867.  
Page 2, Column 1.

"Scraps,"

Relating to the Early History of Limestone County.

Number Thirty Four

In the fall of 1829, T. M. King and Green M. Rodgers were placed on this circuit. Of Mr. King I remember nothing very striking. He was a tall large man; a plain common preacher, and not very popular. Mr. Rodgers was a small, nice man; a

good preacher, and a social, interesting, companion. He left this conference shortly after "riding" this Circuit, and moved his membership to the Mississippi Conference, where he labored until a few years since, when he died happily. He had a brother with him for a short time on this Circuit, who was also a preacher and a young man of most promising talents who sickened and died at my fathers. His name was Tierre Rodgers.

In 1830, Wilson L. McAllister and John B. McFerrin were sent to this Circuit; two most promising men. Mr. McAllister was one of the most lovely men I ever knew; he volunteered as a Missionary to India, whither he went, and labored until death released him from his labors. Of Dr. McFerrin I need not speak; his worth and praise is in all the Churches.

In 1831, Wilson L. McAllister and Wm. McFerrin came to this Circuit. Mr. McFerrin was a young man; plain straightforward, and unpretentious, and good and laborious. He subsequently was cut off from the Tennessee Conference, and appointed to the Memphis Conference, where he still lives and labors.

In 1832, S. R. Davidson and Wm. P. Bowles. Dr. Bowles traveled a few years, and went to the law, in Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

In 1833, A. B. Rozell and Joe Miller were sent here. I remember nothing of Mr. R. Miller was a zealous, good, and useful man; a native of Triana, Madison City.

In 1834, W. L. McAllister and Wm. Pearson. Mr. Pearson was eminently conscientious and good.

In 1835, Stith B. Harwell and Lorenzo Dow Mullens were on this Circuit. Both were good preachers, and efficient and useful.

In 1836, Samuel B. Kingston and R. Z. Hawkins. These men were decidedly above average.

In 1837, Wm. H. Johnson and J. C. Foster. These were common preachers, but good useful men.

In 1838, Dawson Phelps and C. C. Chisholm were on this Circuit. Mr. Phelps was noted for punctuality, promptness and usefulness. Is one of the best citizens, and is still laborious, efficient and strong.

And now Mr. Editor, I beg your permission to retire. I thank you for, your uniform and untiring courtesy and kindness and liberality. Pecuniary, professional and other duties so constantly engross my attention and thoughts, that I cannot persue these "Scraps." You, and your readers have no doubt perceived long since that I had lost all interest in them. It is useless to apologize now, or make excuses. I have been aware, for many weeks, that the few minutes I have spared to their preperation, was resulting in crude, undigestible stuff, and I now close, for the present.

Respectfully,

T.S.M.

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### CONFEDERATE DEAD:

Below will be found as complete a list of the Confederate dead in the grave-yard at this place, as could be made out from the head-boards:

C. H. Tarpley, Louisiana Cavalry, killed May 1st, 1862:  
 Z. T. Gay, Company "A" 20th Tennessee, killed September, 1864;  
 R. B. Fulleton, 2nd Tennessee, killed September 24, 1864; T. A. Gardner, Company "A", 20th Tennessee, killed, September 21; R. E. D.....; Jas. Bledsoe, 12th Tennessee, died Oct. 24, 1864; ..... Jones, Arkansas, died July 7, 1863; J. N. Glover, Alabama, died 1862, G. W. Osborn, company, Alabama, F. 20th Tennessee died September 28, 1864; Lieut. Reddich; .....; T. M. Holliday, Company A; 5 Alabama, Cavalry; J. Clark, 21st Tennessee; G. Reed, 20th Tennessee, T. M. Phicon, Vicksburgh; Wm. Radish, 2d Tennessee Cavalry; Lieut. F. E. Okford, 12th Tennessee 3 Bardins Cavalry; Silas Beedsford, Moreland Battalion

Rodday's Command. J. E. Dowthieh, Forrest Cavalry; G. W. Grubbs, Forrest Cavalry; G. G. Crissman, 4th Tennessee; G. Gastleman; Louisiana Cavalry; J. A. ...., John P. Kilpatrick; .....M. Tasson, 1st Louisiana Cavalry; eight unknown.

Copied from The Athens Post, Athens, Limestone County, Alabama, May 24, 1867, page 3, Col. 2.

## ALABAMA LICENSE RETURNS

## LIMESTONE COUNTY

- 1826-1827 -

A List of Licenses granted by the County Court of Limestone County and of all licenses granted by the Clerk of said Court to exhibitors of Public Shows Hawkers and Pedlars in said County from the ninth day of September 1826 to the 1st day of November 1827.— to wit —

1827	Jany 17—Graves & Morris—Retailers (in the Country)	5.00
1827	Jany 17—Griffin Lawkin—Tavern Keeper (in Town)	10.00
1827	Jany 25—Kelly Stegall—Retailer (in Town)	10.00
1827	Febry 27—James Higgs—Retailer (in Country)	5.00
1827	March 1st—James W Drake—Tavern Keeper (in Town)	10.00
1827	March 2 Carter & Company—Exhibitors of a Show	20.00
1827	April 2—John Grisham—Retailer (in Town)	10.00
1827	April 21—J. J. Bryant & Co.—Exhibitors of a public Show	20.00
1827	April 25—Andrew McCombs—Tavern Keeper (in the Country)	5.00
1827	May 2—Christian W. Zimmerman—Retailer (in Town)	10.00
1827	June 12—Richard T Banks—(Retailer (in the Country)	10.00
1827	July 17 —Samuel Tanner—Retailer (in Town)	15.00
1827	July 24—James Odell—Retailer (in Town)	15.00
1827	Septr 3—Edward J Erwin—Retailed (in Town)	15.00
1827	Septr 3—Robert C David—Retailer (in Town)	15.00

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\$175.00

1827 Sept 3—William Greenshaw—Tavern Keeper (in the Country) 5.00

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\$180.00

The State of Alabama Limestone County to wit: This day personally appeared before me Robert Austin Jr Clerk of the County Court of said County and made Oath that the foregoing Contains a true Statement of all Licensees granted by the County Court of said County and licenses granted to Hawkers and Pedlars in said County during the time above specified to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Subscribed & Sworn to this 13th

day of Novr. 1827

Wm. McCracken T. C.

Robert Austin Jr. C. L. C. C.

The State of Alabama

Limestone County

I Daniel Coleman Judge of the County Court of the County aforesaid do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing Statement made out by Robert Austin Clerk of the County Court of the County aforesaid & find the same to be a correct duplicate of the Statement given by said Clerk to Wm McCracken Tax Collector of said

County, as required by Law — Given under my hand & Seal this 13th day of Nov'r 1827.

Dan Coleman     S E A L

### ALABAMA LICENSE RETURNS

#### LIMESTONE COUNTY

— 1827-1828 —

A list of licenses granted by the County Court of Limestone County to Tavern Keepers & also of all licenses granted by the Clerk of the said Court to exhibitors of Public Shows Hawkers & Peddlers in said County from the 9th day of September 1827 to the 3rd day of November 1826 to wit

1827	December 11th—Bushrod W Johnson—Retailer in Town .....	15.00
1828	January 1st—Thomas Bass—Tavern Keeper in Town .....	20.00
1828	January 10th—William Brown, Jr.—Retailer in Town .....	15.00
1828	February 16th—Kelly Stegall—Retailer in Town .....	15.00
1828	Febry 18th—Thomas P & Stark Washington—Tavern in Town .....	20.00
1828	January 29 Thomas Cotton—Retailer in Town .....	15.00
1828	February 20—Pleasant Byrd—Tavern Keeper in the Country ..	5.00
1828	March 1st—James W Drake—Entertainment without retailing in town .....	10.00
1828	March 4—James Higgs—Retailer in the Country .....	10.00
1828	March 15—Jno. J. Simmons & Benjn R Wallace—Retailers in the Country .....	10.00
1828	April 12—Anderson Miller—Tavern in the Country .....	5.00
1828	July 7th—David Huddleston—Retailer in the Country .....	10.00
1828	July 17—Tanner & Evans—Retailer in Town .....	15.00
1828	August 4—Phillemon H Petty—Retailer in the Country .....	10.00
1828	August 17—Thomas Lanier—Tavern in the Country .....	5.00
1828	September 1st—William Cannon—Retailer in Town .....	15.00
1828	September 3—Robert C. David—Retailer in Town .....	15.00
1828	September 10—Kyle & Odum—Retailer in the Country .....	10.00
1828	September 15—Wiley Winsett—Retailer in the Country .....	10.00
1828	September 15—William Greenhaw—Tavern in the Country ....	5.00
		\$235.00

The State of Alabama Limestone County &c. Personally appeared before Daniel Coleman Judge of the County Court of the County aforesaid.

(Copied from original License Returns to State Comptroller...Filed with State Comptrollers Records — State Department, Archives & History.)

Robert Austin Jr Clerk of the County Court of said County and maketh Oath that the foregoing Contains a true Statement of licenses granted by the County Court of said County and licenses granted to Hawkers and Peddlers & Exhibitors of Public shows in said County by him during the time above specified to the best of his knowledge & belief —J

Subscribed & Sworn to before me

Robert Austin Jr.

this 3rd day of November 1828

Dan Coleman

(Copied from original License Returns to State Comptroller...Filed with State Comptroller's Records — State Department, Archives & History.)

## ALABAMA LICENSE RETURNS

### LIMESTONE COUNTY

— 1828-1829 —

An account of all the licenses granted by the County Court of Limestone County Alabama from which any revenue have accrued to the State of Alabama and all licenses granted by the Clerk of said County Court to Hawkers and Peddlers and Exhibitors of Public Shows from the 1st Monday in November 1828 to the 1st Monday in November 1829 — to wit.

William Jones—Retailer in the Country .....	\$10.00
Dew Burton, Cook & Co—Exhibitors of Public Shows .....	20.00
John M Gentry—Retailer in Town .....	15.00
Patrick Sandifer—Tavern in Town .....	20.00
Thomas Redus—Retailer in the Country .....	10.00
Kelly Stegall—Retailer in Town .....	15.00
Thomas P Washington—Tavern in Town .....	20.00
Pleasant Byrd—Tavern in the Country .....	5.00
Thomas Bass—Tavern in Town .....	20.00
Jeremiah D Higgs—Retailer in Town .....	15.00
Thomas Lanier—Tavern in Country .....	5.00
William F Smith—Retailer in the Country .....	10.00
David & Fielding—Retailers in Town .....	15.00
Kyle & Odom—Retailers in the Country .....	10.00

Error of 10 dollars — \$180.00  
10

190

State of Alabama

Limestone County

Personally appeared before me Paul Hildreth an acting Justice of the peace for said County Robert Austin Jr Clerk of the County Court of the County aforesaid and makes Oath that the foregoing

account of Licenses is just and Correct to the best of his knowledge and belief —

Subscribed & Sworn to before

Robert Austin Jr

me this 9th Novr. 1829 —

P. Hildreth, J P.

State of Alabama Limestone County I William J. Mason Judge of the County Court of the County aforesaid do Certify that the foregoing Contains a fair duplicate of the list & account of Licenses &c delivered by said Clerk to the assessor and Collector of Taxes for said County

Given under my hand and Seal this 9th November 1829. —

Wm. Mason

(Copied from original License Returns to State Comptroller...Filed with State Comptroller's Records — State Department, Archives & History.)

## ALABAMA LICENSE RETURNS

### LIMESTONE COUNTY

— 1832-1833 —

A Statement of the Amount of all the licenses granted by the County Court of Limestone County Alabama from which any revenue have accrued to the State, together with the amount of all licenses granted by the Clerk of said County Court to Hawkers & Peddlers and Exhibitors of Public Shows from the first Monday in November 1832 to the first Monday in November 1833 to wit.

1832	Dec 10—William M. Donaldson—Tavern Keepers in the C'try	\$5.00
1832	Dec 12—William Adams—Tavern Keeper in the Country	5.00
1833	Jany 1st—Lorense Dow Pollock—Retailer in the Country	10.00
1833	Jany 1st—Thomas Bass—Tavern Keeper in Town	20.00
1833	Jany 1st—William T. Gamble—Retailers in the Country	10.00
1833	Jany 16—Robert C M Henderson—Retailer in the Country	10.00
1833	Febr 12—Presley Ralph & Co—Retailers in Town	15.00
1833	Febr 26—Jno G. Lauderdale & Wm. S. Nichols—Retailers	
	in the Country	10.00
1833	Mar 1—James Higgs—Tavern Keeper in Town	20.00
1833	Mar 1—Robert Elliott—Tavern Keeper in Town	20.00
1833	Mar 24—Robert B Francis—Retailer in Town	15.00
1833	May 3—Lewis Huddleston—Retailer in Town	15.00
1833	May 21—William H Sale—Retailer in the Country	10.00
1833	June 18—Nathaniel Griffin—Retailer in the Country	10.00
1833	June 18—Thomas Lanier—Tavern in the Country	5.00



1833	July 4—Robert W Lewis—Retailer in the Country .....	10.00
1833	July 8—John H Gibson—Retailer in the Country .....	10.00
1833	July 25—William S. Wimberly—Tavern Keeper in the Country .....	5.00
1833	Sept. 3—John H David—Retailer in Town .....	15.00
1833	Oct 2—John F. Jones & Co—Retailers in Town .....	15.00
1833	Novr 1st—Ward & Cornelium—Clock Peddlers .....	50.00
		\$285.00

State of Alabama Limestone County: Personally appeared before me George W. Lane Judge of the County Court of the County aforesaid Robert Austin, Jr. Clerk of the County Court of said County and maketh Oath that the foregoing Statement is Just and true to the best of his knowledge and belief —

Subscribed and Sworn to before me  
This 11th day of Novr. 1833

Robert Austin Jr Clk

G. W. Lane

State of Alabama Limestone County to wit I George W. Lane  
Judge of the County Court of the County afroesaid do hereby Certify that  
the foregoing contains a true duplicate of the Statement furnished by  
Robert Austin, Jr. Clerk of the County Court of said County to Thomas G  
Tyus Tax Collector for said County —

Given under my hand and Seal this 11th day of Novr. 1833

The Comptroller of Public  
Accounts of the State of  
Alabama Tuscaloosa

G. W. Lane (S E A L)

(Copied from original License Returns to State Comptroller...Filed with  
State Comptroller's Records — State Department, Archives & History.)

## ALABAMA LICENSE RETURNS LIMESTONE COUNTY

— 1848 —

A Statement of all Licenses granted by the Clerk of the County Court of Limestone County, Alabama from the first Monday in November 1847. to the first Monday in November 1848. from which any Revenue has accrued to the State, Together with the amount of Tax Levied upon the County Seal.

1848	April 1st—James A Sloane—Livery Stable .....	\$ 15.00
1848	April 29th—Thomas S Malone—To retail Cigars .....	10.00

1848	May 2nd—William C Rice—Cake Candies & Fruits .....	10.00
1848	May 2nd—Madison Thompson—Cigars .....	10.00
1848	May 3rd—George R Peck—Cakes Candies & fruits .....	10.00
1848	May 4th—Thomas Redus—Cakes Candies & fruits .....	10.00
1848	July 17th—Rhederick Joyner—Livery Stable .....	15.00
1848	June 5th—Stanley & Stanley—Retail Sprituous Liquors .....	50.00
1848	June 6th—Charles K Thomas—Tavern Keeper .....	10.00
1848	Sepr 6th—McAlister & Cook—Livery Stable .....	15.00

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\$155.00

1848	March 1st—Wm McDowell—To sell Slaves .....	5.00
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\$160.00

1848 Amount of Tax received for County Seal.

1848	April—E. A. Fletcher .....	.50
1848	April—Wm D Hayes .....	.50
1848	May—Thomas C Davis .....	.50
1848	Augst 24th—James H Elliott .....	.50
1848	Augst 24th—Charles M. Coates .....	.50
1848	Augst 24th—Wm W Coats .....	.50
1848	Augst 24th—Ananias Watkins .....	.50
1848	Augst 24th—Joseph Hardy .....	.50
1848	Augst 24th—John Hardy .....	.50
1848	Augst 24th—James Hardy .....	.50
1848	Augst 24th—Ben F. Wilkinson .....	.50
1848	Aug 24th—John H. Brown .....	.50
1848	Augst 24th—Berry B Mattock .....	.50
1848	August 24th—Emily West .....	1.00
1848	Augst 24th—Matthew V Gray .....	.50
1848	Augst 24th—Wm R Johnson .....	.50
1848	Augst 24th—John H. Brown .....	.50
1848	Augst 24th—Flora A Sloane .....	1.00
1848	Augst 24th—Thomas C Davis .....	.50
1848	Augst 24th—Benj Lantez .....	1.00
1848	Augst 24th—Sam'l Edmondson .....	1.00
1848	Augst 24th—James B. Davis .....	.50
1848	Augst 24th—Isaiah Watkins .....	.50

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\$ 13.50

1848	Amount Brot forward .....	\$ 13.50
1848	Augst 28th—Wm. D Hayes .....	.50
1848	Augst 28th—Sam'l T Crenshaw .....	.50
1848	Augst 28th—George W Couch .....	.50
1848	Augst 28th—Drury Mitchell .....	.50
1848	Augst 28th—Covington Morris .....	.50
1848	Augst 28th—Jeremiah Watkins .....	.50
1848	Augst 28th—Isiah Watkins .....	.50

1848	Augst 28th—Ashley R Lentz	.50	
1848	Augst 31st—James McKinney	.50	
1848	Augst 31st—Theodore W Nichols	.50	
1848	Augst 31st—Thomas B. Stinnett	.50	
1848	Augst 31st—Alex McKinney	.50	
1848	Augst 31st—George W C Stanley	.50	
1848	Sepr 8th—James A Borin	.50	
1848	Sepr 8th—Noble Lynch	.50	
1848	Sepr 12th—T F Crawford	.50	
1848	Sepr 12th—A J Venable	.50	
1848	Sepr 12th—James Fleming	.50	
1848	Sepr 12th—Wm H Couch	.50	
1848	Sepr 12th—Joseph J Martin	.50	
1848	Sepr 12th—J W McCall	.50	
1848	Sepr 12th—A B Bailey	.50	
1848	Sepr 12th—Hugh L Bird	.50	
1848	Sepr 18th—J C Hunt	.50	
1848	Sepr 18th—Milton P Long	.50	
1848	Sepr 18th—Josiah Daley	.50	
1848	Sepr 18th John W Lentz	.50	
1848	Sepr 18th—D C Christopher	.50	
1848	Octobr 5th—James Hardy	.50	
1848	Octobr 5th—A J Stinnett	.50	
1848	Octobr 5th—Sarah Stinnett	.50	
1848	Octobr 5th—Sterling M Tucker	.50	
1848	Octobr 5th—Thomas G Shimpock	.50	
1848	Octobr 5th—Wm H Shimpock	.50	
1848	Octobr 5th—John Roberson	.50	
1848	Octobr 5th—James D Jackson	.50	
1848	Octobr 24th—B F Wilkinson	.50	
1848	Octobr 24th—B B Mattock	.50	\$19.00
			<hr/>
			\$32.50

## A Statement of Tax Collected on License to Distil Spirituous Liquors:

1848	July 31st—Edward Strange—License	.50
1848	Augst 5th—Garman Gray	.50
1848	Augst 7th—James Hargroves	.50
1848	Augst 15th—Jackson Witty	.50
1848	Augst 26th—Flood Mitchell	.50

1848	Sept 2nd—William Moates .....	.50	\$ 3.00
	Amt Tax on License issued .....		5.50

Amount Brot forward .....\$ 10.00

A Statement of Tax Received upon Marriage License:

1848	April 8th—From Wm Hamby .....	.50
1848	April 26th—A L Ramsey .....	.50
1848	April 29th—N H Rice .....	.50
1848	April 29th—John P Wofford .....	.50
1848	May 26—Danl G Davis .....	.50
1848	May 27th—Reid McKinney .....	.50
1848	Sept 9th—William Collins .....	.50
1848	Sept 14th—Robert R Lee .....	.50
1848	Sept 16th—George W Tanner .....	.50
1848	Sept 23rd—George Chesson .....	.50
1848	Sept 25th—E L Vincent .....	.50
1848	June 3rd—Ezekiel Miller .....	.50
1848	June 7th—Wm B Clem .....	.50
1848	July 15th—Wm Lambert .....	.50
1848	July 17th—Thos. T M Hatacock .....	.50
1848	July 18—Wm I Powell .....	.50
1848	July 18—I J Greenhaw .....	.50
1848	July 29—Wm B Roberts .....	.50
1848	July 31—Noble Lynch .....	.50
1848	Augst 4th—Jas D Coffman .....	.50
1848	Augst 7—Wm H Lentez .....	.50
1848	Augst 14—Geo W C Stanley .....	.50
1848	Augst 22—Alexr E Patterson .....	.50
1848	Augst 24—Jno H W Jones .....	.50
1848	Sept 6th—Thomas S. Campbell .....	.50
1848	Sept 6th—Jas P S Wood .....	.50
1848	Sept 28th—Benja R Brandon .....	.50
1848	Octr 2—A J Berry .....	.50
1848	Octr 5—Cov Morriss .....	.50
1848	Octr 11th—Fred Tate .....	.50
1848	Octr 12th—Wester Leaton .....	.50
1848	Octr 13—John Quigley .....	.50
1848	Octr 13th—C J Mapenberg .....	.50
1848	Octr 18th—Fred Davis .....	.50
1848	Octr 18th—A C Cain .....	.50
1848	Octr 24th—Jas M Lane .....	.50
1848	Octr 24th—Wm W Gill .....	.50
1848	Octr 25th—Woodson F Harrison .....	.50
1848	Octr 28th—John P Varnell .....	.50
1848	Octr 30th—Ransan-? S Gray .....	.50

\$ 20.00

Amt Brot forward License Granted .....	\$160.00
Amt Tax Do on County Seal .....	32.50
Amt on License to Distil Liquor .....	3.00
License issued .....	5.50
	<hr/>
	\$221.50

The State of Alabama  
 Limestone County Personally appeared before me William H. Walker Judge of the County Court of the County aforesaid Thomas G Tyus Clerk of said Court and makes Oath that the foregoing Statement is Correct to the best of his Knowledge & belief.

Subscribed & Sworn to before me this 8th day of February 1849  
 William H Walker Judge Thos. G Tyus

(Copied from Original License Returns to State Comtroller...Filed with State Comtroller's Records — State Department, Archives & History.)

### ALABAMA LICENSE RETURNS LIMESTONE COUNTY

— 1848 —

A List of Taxes Collected on the Seal of the Circuit Clerks office Before the first day of December Last and Since the Passage of the Law to that effect

Sidney (a man of Color)	) Transcript of Record "Seal	.50
vs	Paid By James White	
Eliza White Exer d r	)	
Hezekiah Farriss & Co.	) Transcript of Record "Seal—	.50
vs		
W & L Huddleston	) Paid by James Fowler	\$1.00

The State of Alabama )  
 )  
 County of Limestone ) I Henry Stanley do hereby Certify that  
 the foregoing account is a Correct and true Transcript from my Tax Book  
 and it Imbraces all of the Taxes that I have received under the new  
 Revenue Law  
 In testimony whereof I have hereunto  
 subscribed my name and affixed the  
 Seal of Office this 1st day of November 1848

Henry Stanley Clerk Circuit Court

(Copied from original License Returns to State Comptroller . . . Filed with State Comptroller's Records—State Department, Archives & History.)

## LICENSE RETURNS

## LIMESTONE COUNTY

1848-1849

Archabald Robinson	)		
	)	Three Seals of Office	\$1.50
	)	\$1.00 paid by A Robinson & 50c	
vs	) Writ of Error)	pd. by J Craig	

James Craig	)		
	)		
	)	Seal of Office paid by H Dillahunty	
Nelson & Co.	)	Ssq. .50	
vs	) Writ of Error		
German Lester	)		

Skillein & Levert	)		
	)		
vs	) Transcript of Record	Seal of Office Paid by A Moore	.50
James H. Erwin	)		

Patterson & Levert	)	Seal of Office Paid by A Moore	.50
	)		
vs	) Transcript of Record		\$3.00
James H. Erwin	)		

Received the State Tax on the above  
Seals of Office (viz) Three dollars from  
H Stanley C. C. C. this the 13th day of  
November 1849—Signa—

Wm. Levesque T. C.

The State of Alabama)

Limestone County ) I Henry Stanley Clerk of the Circuit Court of  
Limestone County State of Alabama do hereby certify that the foregoing  
is a True Copy and a correct Transcript as taken from the Tax Book now  
in my office Including William Levesque's T. C. Receipt—Given Under My  
hand and Seal this the 14th day of November 1848—

H. Stanley—Clerk C. C.

( )  
( )  
( SEAL )

## LICENSE RETURNS

## LIMESTONE COUNTY

1848-1849

## ON OFFICIAL SEALS, ETC:

The State of Alabama                    )  
  )  
      vs                                Writ of Error)   As there is no person responsible for  
  )   the Seal of Office in this case, the  
Pleasant (a Slave)                        )   State will have to collect the same out of its own resources as the Council  
was appointed by the Court for the Defendent where the fee is to come  
from I know not.

H. Stanley, C.C.C.\*

\*(Copied from original License Returns to State Comptroller—Filed with  
State Comptroller's Records—State Dept. Archives & History.)

ORIGINAL LIMESTONE COUNTY LAND PURCHASES

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.

Register of Certificates Granted In Pursuance of Law To Purchasers of Lands  
By John Read, Register of the Land Office at Huntsville.

Certificate Number	By Whom Purchased	Place of Residence	Tract Purchased	
			Number of Town-Ship	Number of Range
20343	James S. Coleman	Limestone County	3	4 W.
20344	James S. Coleman	Limestone County	3	4 W.
20345	James S. Coleman	Limestone County	3	4 W.
21286	Thos G. Tucker	Limestone County	3	5 W.
19833	John H. Dunn	Limestone County	3	6 W.
21286	W. R. Bailey	Limestone County	3	5 W.
27082	W. R. Bailey	Limestone County	3	5 W.
23109	John T. Tanner	Limestone County	2	4 W.
23110	John T. Tanner	Limestone County	2	4 W.
24201	Leonard L. Weir			
(21898)				
(24218)	W. R. Crutcher		2	3 W.
19566	A. W. Patterson		1	6 W.
19981	Thomas C. Pettus		2	3 W.
19982	Thomas C. Pettus		2	3 W.
21105	Wm. E. York		2	4 W.
20029	Wm. E. York		2	4 W.
(22092)				
(22093)	James O. McGaughey		6	9 W.
(22094)	James O. McGaughey		6	9 W.
(22095)	James O. McGaughey		6	9 W.
24998	J. W. Black	Limestone County	2	5 W.
23672	B. M. Townsend	Limestone County	3	4 W.
19364	Elya Moore	Limestone County	3	3 W.
19365	Ann B. Cobbs	Limestone County	3	3 W.
24397	Ann B. Cobbs	Limestone County	3	3 W.
24334	W. B. Pettus	Limestone County	1	4 W.
25673	Elya E. Sampson	Limestone County	2	4 W.
24018	Rebeca W. Brandon	Limestone County	3	6 W.
24043	B. B. Newly	Limestone County	2	4 W.
23142	A. D. Crawford	Limestone County	2	4 W.
21007	B. M. Townsend	Limestone County	3	4 W.
25093	F. L. Mitchell	Limestone County	2	4 W.
19532	Sarah C. Griffin	Limestone County	1 & 2	4 W.



## ORIGINAL LIMESTONE COUNTY LAND PURCHASES—Continued

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.

LAND CERTIFICATES, 1820-1821.

Register of Certificates Granted In Pursuance of Law To Purchasers of Lands  
By John Read, Register of the Land Office at Huntsville.

Certificate Number	By Whom Purchased	Place of Residence	Tract Purchased	
			Number of Town-Ship	Number of Range
19533	Sarah C. Griffin .....	Limestone County	1 & 2	4 W.
26575	David McGowen .....	Limestone County	2	6 W.
27420	David McGowen .....	Limestone County	2	6 W.
24888	Roland J. Davis .....	Limestone County	2	6 W.
(25092)	Joseph Brown .....	Limestone County	2	4 W.
(27218)	Joseph Brown .....	Limestone County	2	4 W.
19563	Mary A. E. Beckam .....	Limestone County	3	5 W.
26142	John M. Moore .....	Limestone County	2	3 W.
22814	Moses Henderson .....	Limestone County	2	4 W.
19604	Wm. E. Hoke .....	Limestone County	3	4 W.
19605	Wm. E. Hoke .....	Limestone County	3	4 W.
19606	Wm. E. Hoke .....	Limestone County	3	4 W.
25167	W. C. Evans .....	Limestone County	1	6 W.
25283	W. C. Evans .....	Limestone County	1	6 W.
23674	P. A. Crawford .....	Limestone County	2	4 W.
25771	J. S. Blair .....	Limestone County	3	6 W.
25817	.....	Limestone County	3	6 W.
27468	Barbary Petete .....	Limestone County	2	6 W.
21367	W. G. Pugh .....	Limestone County	1	5 W.
20074	James Henderson .....	Limestone County	1	4 W.
20075	James Henderson .....	Limestone County	1	4 W.
20719	J. M. Land .....	Limestone County	2 & 3	3 W.
20720	J. M. Land .....	Limestone County	2 & 3	3 W.
24460	J. M. Land .....	Limestone County	2 & 3	3 W.
23597	A. P. Andrew .....	Limestone County	1	4 W.
23024	F. S. Wood .....	Limestone County	2	4 W.
23028	F. S. Wood .....	Limestone County	2	4 W.
20837	Stephen Coleman .....	Limestone County	1	3 W.
26298	Garman Gray .....	Limestone County	2	5 W.
20004	W. B. Johnson .....	Limestone County	3	3 W.
24561	John C. Isome .....	Limestone County	3	4 W.
25780	Sam Hughey .....	Limestone County	2	4 W.
25933	T. C. Gaston .....	Limestone County	1	6 W.
25781	Julius Malone .....	Limestone County	2	4 W.

## ORIGINAL LIMESTONE COUNTY LAND PURCHASES—Continued

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.

LAND CERTIFICATES, 1820-1821.

Register of Certificates Granted In Pursuance of Law To Purchasers of Lands  
By John Read, Register of the Land Office at Huntsville.

Certificate Number	By Whom Purchased	Place of Residence	Tract Purchased	
			Number of Town-Ship	Number of Range
25727	R. H. Temple .....	Limestone County	2	4 W.
21591	A. H. Holt .....	Limestone County	2	5 W.
21592	A. H. Holt .....	Limestone County	2	5 W.
21593	A. H. Holt .....	Limestone County	2	5 W.
25934	A. J. Hix .....	Limestone County	1	5 W.
23568	David Roden .....	Limestone County	1	6 W.
21030	Jeremiah Branum .....	Limestone County	2	4 W.
23309	Edwin W. Greysby .....	Limestone County	2	5 W.
23108	T. J. Cox .....	Limestone County		
21323	Wm. Crouch .....	Limestone County	1	4 W.
20064	R. G. Ramsey .....	Limestone County	1	3 W.
23599	A. G. Westmorland .....	Limestone County	1	4 W.
22156	Peterson Tanner .....	Limestone County	2	5 W.
25539	John W. Black .....	Limestone County	2	5 W.
25542	F. S. Wood .....	Limestone County	2	4 W.
20069	J. A. Leatherwood .....	Limestone County	2	4 W.
20070	J. A. Leatherwood .....	Limestone County	2	4 W.
19784*	Thos J. McCleeland .....	Limestone County	3	3 W.
19499	James H. Hine .....	Limestone County	4	5 W.
21251	E. A. Blackburn .....	Limestone County	2	6 W.
21256	E. A. Blackburn .....	Limestone County	2	6 W.
23298*	John S. Blair .....	Limestone County	3	6 W.
22004	James B. Davis .....	Limestone County	1	6 W.
22005	James B. Davis .....	Limestone County	1	6 W.
22006	James B. Davis .....	Limestone County	1	6 W.
20071	W. W. Phillips .....	Limestone County	1	4 W.
20072	W. W. Phillips .....	Limestone County	1	4 W.
20073	W. W. Phillips .....	Limestone County	1	4 W.
27410	A. R. McWilliams .....	Limestone County	2	4 W.
24378	Emanuel Isom .....	Limestone County	3	3 W.
20956	Joseph Kememer .....	Limestone County	3	4 W.
21258	John S. Blair .....	Limestone County	3	6 W.
21259	John S. Blair .....	Limestone County	3	6 W.
23855	A. D. Crawford .....	Limestone County	3	4 W.

## ORIGINAL LIMESTONE COUNTY LAND PURCHASES—Continued

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.

LAND CERTIFICATES, 1820-1821.

Register of Certificates Granted In Pursuance of Law To Purchasers of Lands  
By John Read, Register of the Land Office at Huntsville.

Certificate Number	By Whom Purchased	Place of Residence	Tract Purchased	
			Number of Town-Ship	Number of Range
24009	L. G. Bullington	Limestone County	1	6 W.
20003	W. R. Johnson	Limestone County	3	3 W.
20005	W. R. Johnson	Limestone County	3	3 W.
26981	David C. Bentley	Limestone County	1	4 W.
24706	Nicholas Browning	Limestone County	1	6 W.
27903	A. W. Stroud	Limestone County	1	3 W.
24211	Tine P. Chapman	Limestone County	1	6 W.
23726	Tine P. Chapman	Limestone County	1	1 W.
26866	R. C. Stinnett	Limestone County	1	1 W.
23031	R. C. Stinnett	Limestone County	1	1 W.
23030	R. C. Stinnett	Limestone County	1	1 W.
23932	A. J. Glaze	Limestone County	3	5 W.
22602	James Isham	Limestone County	3	3 W.
24614	Sarah T. Williams	Limestone County	3	4 W.
24763	John Blake	Limestone County	3	5 W.
26535	J. D. Bauchamp	Limestone County	3	5 W.
23204	William Wousett	Limestone County	3	5 W.
25400	Washington Ramsey	Limestone County	3	5 W.
23711	Edmond N. Scruggs	Limestone County	5	6 W.
22082	James Goode	Limestone County	2	6 W.
27484	Pleasant E. Leute	Limestone County	2	6 W.
22102	James Lambert	Limestone County	2	5 W.
22336	Smith Abernathy	Limestone County	2	6 W.
26856	Reuben A. Glaze	Limestone County	2	3 W.
24733	M. J. Horton	Limestone County	2	5 W.
25647	A. N. Holt	Limestone County	2	5 W.
21932	W. P. Greisham	Limestone County	2	6 W.
25653	Lewis B. Sanderson	Limestone County	2	5 W.
22857	Zachary Bergett	Limestone County	2	5 W.
19892	Josep Holbert	Limestone County	2	6 W.
24721	Josep Holbert	Limestone County	2	6 W.
23885	Louis F. Hall	Limestone County	2	3 W.
22911	George W. Loughmeller	Limestone County	2	3 W.
(23886)	Cyrus L. Boyce	Limestone County	2	3 W.

## ORIGINAL LIMESTONE COUNTY LAND PURCHASES—Continued

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA.

LAND CERTIFICATES, 1820-1821.

Register of Certificates Granted In Pursuance of Law To Purchasers of Lands  
By John Read, Register of the Land Office at Huntsville.

Certificate Number	By Whom Purchased	Place of Residence	Tract Purchased	
			Number of Town-Ship	Number of Range
(26967)	Cyrus L. Boyce	Limestone County	2	3 W.
(22807)	Cyrus L. Boyce	Limestone County	2	3 W.
(21066)	Cyrus L. Boyce	Limestone County	2	3 W.
26659	R. V. Thurman	Limestone County	2	4 W.
26782	Anderson A. Cline	Limestone County	2	3 W.
21594	A. J. Johnson	Limestone County	2	5 W.
22083	William B. Holt	Limestone County	3	4 W.
25788	John C. Barker	Limestone County	2	6 W.
21595	Arkinson Johnson	Limestone County	2	5 W.
21596	Atkinson Johnson	Limestone County	2	5 W.
21597	Atkinson Johnson	Limestone County	2	5 W.
25327	Christopher Meyrs	Limestone County	2	5 W.
22103	Leroy Weatherford	Limestone County	2	5 W.
26723	A. G. Yarbrough	Limestone County	3	5 W.
24650	W. F. Granhan	Limestone County	2	5 W.
21293	P. Farrar	Limestone County	2	5 W.
24901 X	Richard Henderson	Limestone County	3	5 W.
24640	John Moss	Limestone County	2	6 W.
27145	David Richaway	Limestone County	1	6 W.
22104	Leroy Weatherford	Limestone County	2	5 W.
19454	James McCloudy	Limestone County	1 & 2	3 W.
19453	James McCloudy	Limestone County	1 & 2	3 W.
24397	John W. A. Goodwin	Limestone County		
25352	Alford A. Clem			
22781	Joseph M. Griffin	Limestone County	2	4 W.
24173	John D. Hall	Limestone County	2	3 W.
20064	Samuel F. Mitchell	Limestone County	2	3 W.
20065	Samuel F. Mitchell	Limestone County	2	3 W.
21031	Richard Martin	Limestone County	2	3 W.
20097	Davidson Eaves	Limestone County	1	4 W.
20098	Davidson Eaves	Limestone County	1	4 W.
23140	Davidson Eaves	Limestone County	1	4 W.
19977	Josiah S. McDowell	Limestone County	1	7 W.
22001	John Tunentine			

## RECOLLECTIONS OF CAROLINE LEADINGHAM

Our home and the place of my birth was near Mooresville, Limestone county, Ala. In the cemetery there sleeps my dear parents, awaiting the resurrection.

The house stood on a hill, at the foot of which ran a creek—a delightful place to fish or row. Water lilies and a variety of wild flowers grew in abundance; to me, the rose was the sweetest. In one of my rambles I found one of pretty shape and size, and transplanted it in our yard, beneath the big oaks, where, by care and trimming, it grew to be like a small tree, and delighted me with its lovely blooms.

Near the home was a skirt of woods, in which sister and I found a circle of water oaks with bamboo, rattan and woodhine growing over them, and honey-suckle all around. This we selected for our playhouse; trained the vines, whitewashed with old brooms and white clay, and decorated with pink and white honey-suckle. I have never seen anything prettier.

Blessed with health and a cheerful disposition, I loved nature with all my heart, and we had a christian mother to teach us of the goodness of God. When we grew older we gave the playhouse another name—the “reading room.” By then the vines had grown to make a dense shade, and here we read and studied our lessons.

Those days are dear to me yet. We had a married sister living in Moulton, who wanted one of us to come and stay with her. It was decided that I should spend the summer with her and go to school. I had just entered my ninth year.

Preparations made, the morning came for my departure. My clothes packed in saddle bags, my sun-bonnet tied on by loving hands, I kissed my sweet little sisters and dear mother goodbye, with promise “to be good and not to forget to say my prayers.” Lo! mounted on Maggie, a faithful animal of excellent gaits, my brother by my side, we began our journey of twenty-eight miles.

Six miles brought us to Swan Lake, which we crossed on a bridge built of logs and plank, and soon we were on the bank of the river at the present site of the ferry, where I had my first view of Decatur, March, 1829. I was sorely disappointed, as I had thought of it as a great city.

Crossing on a flat ferry boat, we rode up what is now called Railroad street, passed the Polk House, which was then being built and owned by Col. Frank Dancy, great grandfather of Mrs. W. W. Littlejohn. A little further on to the left was Dr. Rhodes' large, elegant house, in a beautiful grove of large oaks, extending from the present depot to Maj. Downs' house on Lafayette street. This was the handsomest house that was ever in Decatur—was afterward bought by Simon Sykes, and from him by Mrs. Scruggs, mother of Mrs. Sue M. Nelson.

Where the school house now stands was a rope and bagging factory, owned by Dr. Rhodes.

Six months after, my brother and Maggie came to bring me home. How my heart leaped for joy, soon to be in my mother's arms again! Now, on the north side of the river, opposite the town, was a great field of hemp, belonging to Dr. Rhodes, which he grew for his factory—the first and the last hemp I ever saw growing.

In 1832, my brother, Samuel Hollingworth, moved to Decatur, after which time I often visited here. He lived on the corner now owned by Maj. D. L. Downs.

Drs. Rhodes and Dancy, Simon Stykes and Gen. Garth, father of Mrs. Sally Dancy, were among the first settlers, and held their deeds from the government. They were all men of considerable wealth.

The bank was established here about the year 1832, and the first money deposited in it was two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in silver, sent from New Orleans by steamboat to Florence, and from there, hauled by wagon to Decatur by Peter Hovis, and guarded by two men. Before this banking business was transacted in a

little log house. There was no church in the town, and the first sermon I heard here was in a two-story frame building, the upper story being the Masonic Lodge.

In 1834 the railroad was built from Tuscumbia to Decatur, and was finished to the present site of the M. & C. freight depot. I saw the first train, which consisted of the engine and three coaches, come in. I suppose there were a thousand people on the ground to witness it. In January, 1834, it was completed to the warf, and celebrated by a grand ball on the eighth. The warf was then where the bridge begins now, and walled with stone. A few years after, the steam cars were abolished and coaches drawn by one horse were used for awhile. But when the country recovered from the money panic of '37 the steam cars were restored and used until the Memphis & Charleston road was built.

"The Atlas" was the first steamboat that run the river over the shoals to this point.

In 1835 the Methodist church was built, and in '37 Decatur was made a preaching station.

In '36 John S. Rhea, a prominent merchant, built the brick, known as the Burleson-Hines house; also a large brick warehouse on the river, foot of Bank street.

In '39 a nice brick church was built by Baptists. In 1838 a large cotton factory was built near the site of the charcoal ovens.

In 1854 the Presbyterian church, a frame building, was erected on the present site of Cross & Brock's new stores.

The Odd Fellows built a large brick in 1856, corner Lafayette and Canal streets, which accommodated a large female school besides their own hall. A male school flourished where Charlie Todd's house now stands. Many comfortable and handsome homes adorned the town, when, in 1864, Federal troops took possession of it and ordered all the citizens to leave. When permitted to return they found the bank, the McCartney, the Polk

and the Burleson houses were all that was left of our once pretty town.

To link back to my own life: We left the dear old home in 1839 and moved to Morgan county. In 1840 I was married and came to Decatur to make a home, where, after the vicissitudes of life and of war, I live, surrounded by the best of neighbors, whom I dearly love, and with five great grandchildren for my play-mates, I love the play-house still.

Caroline Leadingham.

June 8, 1895.



## PROCEEDINGS OF ALABAMA LEGISLATURE

Friday, December 8, 1820

## FROM CAHAWBA

By the polite attention of our correspondents at the seat; of Government, (who availed them selves of a private conveyance to forward us letters and papers.) we are enabled to lay before our readers the proceedings of the Legislature up to the 29th ult.

Nothing additional since our last, of much importance had finally passed into a law, but much important business had accumulated and was then under the consideration of the Legislature. Among other bills, that for the apportionment of Representatives under the later census, had assumed a shape in which it was supposed it would finally pass. This bill provides for dividing the state into sixteen senatorial districts, each of which is to elect one senator.—The districts are composed as follows: for the population in each we refer our readers to the abstract of census in our last.

1. Baldwin, Washington and Mobile
2. Conecuh, Henry and Butler
3. Monroe and Wilcox
4. Clarke and Marengo
5. Jefferson and Marion
6. Dallas and Perry
7. Autauga and Montgomery
8. Green and Tuscaloosa
9. Cahawba and Shelby
10. Blount and St. Clair
11. Cotaco
12. Lawrence
13. Franklin and Lauderdale
14. Limestone
15. Madison
16. Jackson

The ratio of Representatives is fixed at 1740 for each member, which will give the different counties the following number:

Jackson,	3 :	Perry,	1
Madison,	6 :	Cahawba,	1
Limestone,	3 :	Marengo,	1
Lauderdale,	2 :	Dallas,	2
Franklin,	1 :	Monroe and Wilcox,	3
Lawrence,	3 :	Clarke,	2
Cotaco,	2 :	Baldwin,	1
Marion,	1 :	Mobile,	1
Blount,	1 :	Conecuh, Henry	
Jefferson,	2 :	and Butler,	3
St. Clair,	2 :	Montgomery,	2
Shelby,	1 :	Autauga,	1
Tuscaloosa,	3 :	Washington,	2
Greene,	2 :		---
		Total	32

The bill for establishing a State University, and authorizing the sale of 10 sections of the college land, for the purpose of erecting buildings, &c. has failed, except so far as to authorize the appointment of commissioners, to select a proper site for the University, and report to the next Legislature.

There is a bill before the house for establishing a Court of Chancery. It divides the state into three chancery districts, in each of which a court is to be held twice each year, by a chancellor, to be appointed in the same manner as Judges of the Circuit Court are: It was thought this bill would pass the House, but fears were entertained as to its success in the Senate.

A bill to establish a State Bank, with a capital of \$2,000,000, and a bill for issuing Treasury notes to the amount of \$45,000, to meet the exigencies of government for the current year, were progressing in the House. The latter was referred to the committee of ways and means, who reported favorably, and it would probably pass; we understand no provision is made in the bill for the redemption of the notes.

It appears by the Treasurer's Report, that the disbursements, for the year ending 29th October, 1820, amounted to \$47,786,27, and that there is now in the Treasury only \$15,154.70. This report exhibits a most alarming deficiency of the revenue of the state.

A foreigner would suppose from looking at the wealth and population of the state, that revenue could easily be raised, to meet the exigencies of the government and make liberal appropriations for internal improvement. The late census exhibits a population of about 45,000 slaves, which are the most unexceptional objects of taxation: They were valuable and productive property, and, in a slave state, are the surest criterion of a man's wealth.

The former tax of *one dollar* per head on slaves, together with a slight tax on Merchandise, Bank-Stock, and some few articles of luxury, could be conveniently collected, and would defray all the expenses of our state government.

The committee of Ways and Means will doubtless devise some means of raising a revenue, without driving the next Legislature to the pitiful expedient of issuing Treasury notes.

See: *Alabama Republican*  
Huntsville, Alabama  
Friday, Dec. 8, 1820  
Page 3, Column 2

## DR. SHACKELFORD'S RED ROVERS

Some compiled data referable to the Company of Tennessee Valley men who served in the Texas War with Mexico as a part of Col. Fannin's outfit.

(This gentleman arrived in Courtland, his place of residence, on Saturday last, from Texas, amidst the rejoicings of his numerous friends. On yesterday, the 12th inst., a public dinner was given him by the citizens of Courtland, which was very numerous attended and unusually interesting. We did not arrive there in time to hear the addresses, &c, that were delivered, but shall lay them before our readers next week. The Doctor fully confirms the accounts already published relative to the massacre of Col. Fanning and his men. He is in fine health and good spirits.—)  
*Morgan Observer.*

## THE RED ROVERS

*To the Editors of the North Alabamian.*

Sirs:—As every thing in relation to the fall of this gallant though unfortunate little band, will be acceptable to their friends, I have made out a list below (from memory) of those who were absent during the engagement, those who were killed and wounded in action, those who escaped the massacre, and those who were massacred. I intend in a short time to give a full account of the battle, and will then speak of the whole corps engaged.

At the time of the attack, we were in an open prairie, drawn up in a hollow square, numbering about two hundred and seventy-five effective men. The force of the enemy must have been at least five hundred cavalry and fifteen hundred infantry—that with this disparity of force we fought about three hours—repelling charge after charge, and mowing down large numbers of the enemy in every attempt made upon our lines, until they were finally driven from the contest and compelled to take refuge in the very timber we had endeavored to reach ourselves. Our whole loss was seven killed and between forty and fifty

wounded, some mortally. I have frequently been asked why we did not retreat that night? In answer to this inquiry, I will remark that the night was dark and gloomy, that we had no way of taking off our wounded, except upon our backs, and that we were determined never to abandon them to the mercy of the enemy. In addition to this, we had repelled every charge made on us, and compelled our enemy to seek safety in retreat, and we anxiously looked for a reinforcement in the morning, when we expected to consummate our victory. The fatal morning however arrived, and instead of being reinforced ourselves, the enemy received a large accession of their force, and opened upon us a piece of artillery. We were suffering greatly for the want of water, and there was no alternative left us but to abandon our wounded and cut our way thro' the enemy, or to make an honorable capitulation. A flag was sent out and promptly met by the enemy, who offered the following terms:

1st. That we should be received as prisoners of war, and treated with every mark of kindness which is extended to prisoners, by the most cultivated nations of the world.

2d. That private property should in every instance be respected, and that the arms of the officers should be given up to them upon their exchange of parole.

3d. That the prisoners should be exchanged or sent to the United States upon their parole, as soon as a conveyance could be procured. This was signed in the most formal manner, and the most solemn assurances given, that it would be scrupulously observed.— The bloody massacre which followed, will show how far confidence can be reposed in the honor of a Mexican officer.

My life was spared, not from any feeling of humanity towards me, but from a necessity for my services in their Hospital; the same may be said of Drs. Barnard and Field. I was detained at La Bahia (Goliad) for about four weeks, where my sufferings were almost insupportable, and then sent to St. Antonio, in company with Dr. Bernard, to visit their wounded at that place, who had been very badly attended to. We remained there, being re-

quired to attend their Hospital, until all their force (but one company) had commenced their retreat. We then procured horses and other means, through the assistance of some confidential friends, and made off, passing the Mexican army in the night.

Whilst at St. Antonio, I take much pleasure in stating, that I was treated with great kindness by a majority of the Mexican officers, and by the citizens generally--that I frequently heard the massacre of Fannin's army spoken of. The officers declared the bloody order emanated from Santa Anna, that it was in violation of a solemn capitulation and in opposition to the advice of nearly all the field officers.

In addition to the fate of the Red Rovers, I will here mention two gallant young men who were attached to Col. Fannin's Staff, John L. Brooks, and — Chadwick. They were both highly gifted young men, and had received a military education. Brooks was a native of one of the upper counties in Virginia, and Chadwick of the State of New Hampshire — though for the last few years a resident of Illinois: the former received a wound during the engagement. They both shared the fate of many other gallant spirits.

(Here follows a list of the names of a part of Fannin's men, which we omit for want of room.)

JACK SHACKLEFORD,

*Copied this May 4, 1936*

*Late Captain Red Rovers.*

List of the Company of Red Rovers, who served from 19th June to 29th, February, 1836:

Captain .....	Jack Shackelford
1st Lieut. ....	F. S. Early
2nd Lieut. ....	W. C. Francis
1st Searg. ....	F. S. Shackelford
2nd Searg. ....	J. D. Hamilton
3rd Searg. ....	A. G. Faley
4th Searg. ....	Z. H. Short

## PRIVATES

H. H. Bentley,  
J. H. Batsley,  
P. H. Anderson,  
B. F. Burts,  
J. N. Barnhill,  
Harvey Cox,  
J. G. Coe,  
Wm. E. Vaughn,  
Robert Wilson,  
Wm. Quinn,  
Henry L. Douglas,  
Dr. J. H. Burnard,  
Simpson Tennant,  
Milton Irish,  
H. B. Day,  
J. W. Duncan,  
J. E. Ellis,  
Rob't Fenner,  
James Furguson,  
D. Gamble,  
J. H. Grimes,  
John Heser,  
H. W. Jones,  
Dan'l A. Murdock,  
Chas. McKenley,

D. Moore,  
A. Winter,  
Jos. Blackwell,  
Thos. Burlridge,  
J. W. Cain,  
Seth Clark,  
Alfred Darsey,  
James Vaughn,  
James Welder,  
Wm. C. Douglas,  
G. W. Brooks,  
Thos. Cartwell,  
Silas Dewitt,  
G. L. Davis,  
A. Dickson,  
R. T. Davidson,  
Samuel Farney,  
E. B. Franklin,  
M. C. Gurner,  
Wm. Gunter,  
Wm. Hemphill,  
John Jackson,  
Jno. N. Jackson,  
John Kelly,  
J. H. Millen,

J. M. Stuyton or Senyton,  
W. J. Shackelford,  
W. F. Savage,  
Wm. Bawhay,  
James Farmer,

B. Strunts,  
Z. L. Brooks,  
D. Cooper,  
Seth Connor,  
E. Simpson.

Any of the above persons, or their proper heirs, who have not received pay, can do so by application and proof of identity.

By an Act, 9th February, 1850, a married man can get a League of Land, (4,605 acres,) and 640 acres;—a single man 1,476 and 640 acres; also, \$8 per month, in cash. Application must be made previous to 1st August, 1858, or they will be forever barred.—

Jas. V. A. Hinds,  
Com. of Deeds, &c., for Texas,  
Huntsville, Alabama.

Huntsville, March 5th, 1857.

Notices of Captain Jack Shackelford and Red Rovers, in *Southern Advocate*.

December 29, 1835.

May 3, 1836.

May 17, 1836.

July 19, 1836.

Notices of Wyatt's Company in *Southern Advocate*.

January 12, 1836.

January 19, 1836.

March 22, 1836.

Holland's account of battle of Coleto in *Southern Advocate*.

May 31, 1836.

Letter of thanks to Col. Bradley Cox for and to Texans—*Southern Advocate*.

June 7, 1836.

Appearing the *Democrat*.

Texas Volunteers, Wyatt's Company, Nov. 11, 1835.

Wyatt's Company, Jan. 13, 1836. Mentioned three times in this issue.

Wyatt's Company, Jan. 7, 1836.

Poem on The Fall of the Red Rovers.—*Democrat*, Dec. 8, 1847. p.3.



Goliad, Texas, 9th March, 1836

My Dear Maria:

I have let no sort of opportunity of conveying a letter to you escape me—and I have no doubt but I have written many letters which you will never receive. We have been at this place three weeks and have been fortifying and making it strong. We are about ninety miles from Bexar—or St. Antone as it is call'd—and I would not wish to conceal from you that, that place is invaded by a powerful army of four or five thousand men, said to be commanded by St. Anna in person. The garrison does not contain more than two hundred men, and they have already repuls'd several attacks of the enemy with great loss—without even losing a man on their side. These poor fellows can't hold out much longer without they receive aid—the citizens turn out slowly and were not convinc'd of their danger until their country was invaded. I rec'd a letter from John Sutherland yesterday morning by express—stating that two hundred men were with him at Gonzales on their march to St. Antone—and begging us to join them. We have about four hundred effective men here and I was asking for 250 to march off to their relief with two pieces of cannon—but I was overrul'd in a council of Officers—from the difficulty of procuring teams for the Artillery and baggage waggons—and from a report that a body of some six or eight hundred men were assembling fifty miles below this—with a view to cut off our provisions—under these circumstances it was deem'd most prudent to remain here for further developments. I think myself, we ought to take off all provisions, and stores here and retire nearer to the settlements. I would not have given you any news which was calculated to produce anxiety and uneasiness on your part but that I was apprehensive you would hear many false rumors, and I knew it was best to give you the truth—Under every circumstance my dear wife—let me beg—let me entreat you to be calm and submissive. Your Husband and Son is in the hands of their heavenly Father—to his will I bow with deference, and on his arm I rely for support—Let us remember each other at a throne of grace.

I have recently written to Harriet—Mr. McMahon—Major. Fearn & Jos. Saunders. If they have not rec'd my letters—tell them to urge all the volunteers that will come—to do so without delay—The company continues to enjoy good health. We have scarcely had a shower of rain since our arrival—indeed this is the purest, driest, and most elastic atmosphere I ever breath'd in my life—My own health has been uniformly good—better than for several years—though my hair is coming out rapidly, and I may stand in need of a whig when I get home. You shall hear from me on all occasions. I am truly distress'd at not receiving one solitary line from home since I left New Orleans—I know it is not your fault.

Every one of the young men request me to mention them to their friends. Natus conducts himself well—and indeed it is admitted by all, that I have the best company in service. Present me affectionately to Harriet, Genl. Lary & Mr. McMahon—cousin Martha—Margaret & the girls—and to all—every one of my friends in Courtland and the neighborhood.

Receive the warm & ardent affection of your ever devoted

Shackelford

My dear Edward:

If you were here, you could get a Pony almost every day—but they are not worth more than Ten dollars a dozen—all of them have been rode down carrying expresses but I hope about the time I start home I shall be able to get you a handsome little Camanche Pony. If these Mexicians and Texians should make peace, I could go about one hundred miles and buy a plenty of good Horses at Ten dollars a piece, and Mules at \$25-- You must be a good dutiful child—attend well to your learning—obey your Mother—and don't leave her by herself to be lonesome. You must be kind and affectionate to your sister & brother and don't quarrel with them. You must do what Mr. McMahon tells you—If you were to see these Mexicians riding you would laugh, they have long Iron spurs which trips them up when they walk, a saddle cover'd with skins and large wooden stirrups

covered with leather to keep the briars from sticking in their feet—but they ride well, and will catch a wild Horse and jump on him in the Prairie and stick their spurs in his sides, and run him until he is almost heart broke—they say he is then gentle—& so he is, for he can hardly go along. Tell Cousin Lucy he is learning to speak Spanish very fast—Bob is not so apt. Sometimes we drive 150 head of cattle up at a time, and us all go to killing and eating and feel very sick—once us had no corn or flour for 4 or 5 days & no beef for two days the boys all look'd mighty sour & when they got aplenty to eat you never see fellows in such a good humor in your life. We all have plenty of sugar and thats what they love. They will eat sugar and fat beef together like bread & meat. The Prairies are full of little wolves—they come close up to the Fort every night and whine like young puppies—They come about us some times when we are mustering. You must be sure to remember me to every one of my friends in town—go and tell them all so. You must say your prayers night and morning & don't forget your Father and brother.

Farewell my dear little boy

Jack Shackelford

(Superscription)

SHIP

Mrs. Maria E. Shackelford

Courtland

North Alabama

## THE TENNESSEE STATE LINE

*An Historical Interpretation*

BY PETER A. BRANNON

Col. Willis Brewer, it was, who told of a difficulty between two men, one being killed, when he was "shot through the Tennessee line." The question came up as to what part of the anatomy the Tennessee line was. Which reminds one that every reference in Mississippi Territorial or Alabama history fixes the northern boundary of Alabama as "Along the line of the State of Tennessee," and you will fail to find what this is. In 1796 the "Territory South of the Ohio River" having the required population, was admitted as the State of Tennessee.\* South Carolina claimed a twelve mile wide strip as far west as the Mississippi River, and Georgia claimed much territory north of 32°28", North Latitude, and Spain claimed the country west of the Chatahoochee River up to a line running due east from the mouth of the Yazoo River, (which line coincides with thirty-two degrees, twenty-eight minutes North Latitude) so, what was the "country south of the Ohio"?

To fix the Alabama-Tennessee line is difficult, but most the phraseology fixing early State lines is confusing, so that concerning the Tennessee line is no different from the rest. On the 14th day of April, One Thousand Eight hundred and Two, the State of Georgia and the United States of America, drew up articles of Agreement and Cession \*\* and by Article One, the State of Georgia "cedes to the United States all the right, title, and claim which the said state has to the jurisdiction and soil of the lands situated within the boundaries of the United States south of the State of Tennessee, and west of a line beginning on the western bank of the Chatahoochee river, where the same crossed the boundary line between the United States and Spain, running thence up the said river Chatahoochee, and along the western bank thereof,

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\**Our Country's History*, Garner and Henson, 1921, P. 228

\*\* U. S. Senate Journal III, P. 222; U. S. House Journal IV, P. 222

next above the place where a certain creek or river called 'Uchee' (being the first considerable stream on the western side above the Cussetas and Coweta towns (empties into the said Chatahoochee river; thence in a direct line to Nickajack, on the Tennessee river; then crossing the said last-mentioned river, and thence running up the said Tennessee river, and along the western bank thereof, to the southern boundary line of the state of Tennessee." \*

The wonder is why such confusing terminology when if they hit the Nickajack (Cave) "on the Tennessee river" (which is off the left side going down stream, that is south of the river) they were directed to *cross the river and go up the river on the "west" side* to get to the "Southern boundary line of the State of Tennessee," as is generally accepted, the 35° of North Latitude. However, the point to make here is that no legal, documented Act can be found to claim this line (35°) as the State line. Col. Albert J. Pickett says, discussing the Yazoo Land frauds and their settlement, that "Finally, Albert Gallatin, James Madison and Levi Lincoln, on the part of the government, and James Jackson, Abraham Baldwin and John Milledge, representing Georgia, made a final disposition of the matter. For the sum of one million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars Georgia ceded to the United States all the territory within the following: Beginning upon the Mississippi at the line of 31°, thence continuing up that river to the line of 35°; thence along that line, due east, to Nickajack; thence southward to the mouth of Uchee creek; thence down the Chattahoochee to Ellicott's line; thence along that line due west to the Mississippi, the place of beginning. The purchase money was to be paid to Georgia out of the net proceeds of the sales of these lands." \*\*

The Georgia Land Cession as set out in Toulmin's *Digest* of 1823 \*\*\* and the Alabama *Code* of 1940, Article II, Sec. 37 \*\*\*\* both use the language as stated above. Some early maps put the

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\*Toulmin's *Digest*, 1823, P. 77

\*\*Pickett, *History of Alabama*, Owen edition 1900, P. 465

\*\*\*Page 77

\*\*\*\*Page 85

Nickajack on the 35th parallel; no modern maps do, these latter, drawing the parallel to hit the Alabama line at the Northwest corner of Limestone County and showing the Nickajack about one mile south of the global boundary line, this obviously, recording for Polyconic projection (caused by the curvature of the earth).

The Attorney General of the State of Tennessee, replying to a request for a citation setting out officially the boundary line for Tennessee between that State and Alabama, says:

"I have examined the Statutes of Tennessee and find no specific Statute relating to this particular boundary line.

"Code Sections 82 through 91 relate to certain boundary lines of the State, particularly those between Tennessee and North Carolina, between Tennessee and Virginia, between Tennessee and Kentucky, between Tennessee and Georgia, between Tennessee and Mississippi, between Tennessee and Arkansas along the Mississippi River, but I find no Statute specifically setting forth the boundary line between Tennessee and Alabama.

"Section 82 of our Code sets forth boundaries generally as included in the Cession Act of North Carolina and embodied in the Constitution of Tennessee for 1796, and the two subsequent Constitutions. These boundaries as between Tennessee and North Carolina are described in general terms and then is added the words 'including all the territory, lands and waters lying west of the said line (meaning the line between Tenn. and N. C.) and contained within the charter limits of the State of North Carolina before the Cession.'

"To properly locate this line would perhaps necessitate going back to the original charter of North Carolina and then I am sure the descriptions of the boundary lines would be in

general terms. However, with the boundary line between Tennessee and Georgia located and the line between Tennessee and Mississippi located, with Alabama between, I think it safe to say that the boundary line between Tennessee and Alabama would be on the same latitude ( $35^{\circ}$ ) as the line between Georgia and Mississippi on the one hand and Tennessee on the other — that is to say with the line between Georgia and Tennessee extended westward so as to intersect the line between Mississippi and Tennessee a continuous straight line should be established thereby giving the boundary line between Tennessee and Alabama.

“If it became necessary, no doubt this line could be definitely established by a further examination of the Cession Act old Statutes, history of the formation of the States and also, if necessary, by a survey. There has never been any dispute about this line so far as I know or as I am able to ascertain.” \*

### *The Nickajack*

Apparently the location of the Nickajack was fixed astronomically, about the time of the creation of the Mississippi Territory. The cave, the point intended to be the corner post of Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee is a pre-historic site which had been occupied by the Indians long prior to the coming of the whites and its physical location was well known, however, it would have been necessary for the surveyor to have had a fixed point at and to which he must direct his instrument, as the line between Georgia and the Mississippi Territory was intended to be from the “next great bend above the mouth of Uchee creek when this line would not touch the waters of the Chattahoochee river.” Therefore, you see that the surveyor, aiming to reach the Nickajack from the mouth of the Uchee, should have known by previous reckoning this location before a survey could have been made from the South to the North. This was as directed under the law. There are statements in the Alabama history that the surveyors who fixed the  $31^{\circ}$  of North Latitude from the Pearl

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\*Roy H. Beeler, Atty. Gen., to Peter A. Brannon, Oct. 29, 1946

river to the Chattahoochee, determined the physical site of the mouth of the Uchee creek and the Nickajack cave. No documentary proof of it is to be had though there is an acceptance of it as historical tradition.

Nickajack town, on the "south bank of the Tennessee river in Marion County, Tenn." (this bearing out my above statement that the Nickajack is south of the 35° of North Latitude) was settled in 1782 by Cherokees who espoused the British causes in the Revolutionary War. It was one of the Chickamauga towns. \* Aboriginal or prehistoric evidences suggest that the cave was occupied prior to 1782 as that date is sometime after the entry of the whites to that territory. The town was destroyed in the fall of 1792, therefore had only a twelve year existence. The name is not Cherokee, though there was a man of this name. The word has been corrupted and today is used in the form of "Niggerjack" a small stream emptying into the Cullasagee river in Macon County, North Carolina.

When Col. Richard Blount, Chairman of the Alabama-Georgia Boundary Line Commission, made his report after the completion of the survey of the line in 1826, he said, "We began at the mouth of Uchee below Ft. Mitchell and run No. 10 and struck the Tennessee river two and a half miles east of Nickajack, then to ran Nickajack and finally put up a square at the Tennessee line to divide Georgia and Alabama where I would go into these three states by going around the stone in less than three minutes." A pile of stones now mark the corner boundary of Alabama and Georgia at the Tennessee line. This pile of stone may be the disintegrated square stone around which Col. Blount walk in three minutes, one hundred and twenty years ago. \*\*

### *West Corner*

The Act bounding the State, says, "Beginning at the point

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\**Handbook of American Indians*, Vol. II, 1910, P. 69

\*\*Report of Richard Blount, Chairman Georgia Boundary Line Commission, to the Governor, filed (manuscript) in Alabama Department of Archives and History. (John W. A. Sanford papers)



where the 31° of North Latitude crosses the Perdido river” which I take to mean that the Alabama boundary is on the west bank of the Perdido river and that the Perdido river is in Florida, “thence east to the western boundary line of the State of Georgia, thence along the said line to the southern boundary line of the State of Tennessee, thence west along the southern boundary of the State of Tennessee, crossing the Tennessee river and on to the second intersection of said river by said line, thence up said river to the mouth of Big Bear Creek,” etc. Apparently the 35° of North Latitude is not mentioned by name in any of these Acts which fix the southern boundary of Tennessee and certainly none have come under my eye, but it is possible that the description of the strip twelve miles wide on the northern part of the State of Alabama which was ceded by South Carolina to the United States and then granted to the Mississippi Territory, may mention the 35° as the boundary line. The old Tennessee Company, the Yazoo Land Company and the other speculators who traded in the lands between the 32°28” and 35° bought that section below (south of) the second township, south of the 35th degree. Old maps of South Carolina show the northwest corner of that State extending to the Mississippi river and maps earlier show the Illinois Territory (a part of the original Northwest Territory) extending down to the Georgia claim, and of this Northwest Territory, Tennessee was carved.

### *South Carolina's Claim*

Cotterill discussing the South Carolina Land Session, says:

“ The validity of South Carolina's claim to western land for 1787, hinged upon a boundary dispute which that self-assertive State had had with Georgia since the founding of the latter colony. By the liberal provision of the Charter of 1665, the colony of Carolina extended somewhat theoretically from sea to sea, between the parallels 36°30” and 29°. Upon the division of the colony, the northern boundary of South Carolina, beyond the mountains, was fixed at the 35th

parallel, its southern boundary remaining as before, and its western limit was still the Pacific Ocean." \*

When the State of Georgia was created that part of South Carolina in America which lies "from the most northern part of a stream or river and commonly called the Savannah, all along the seacoast to the southward, onto the most southern stream of a certain other great water or river called the Altamaha and '*westerly from the heads of the said rivers respectively in direct lines to the south seas,*'" was set off as Georgia. Commentators\*\* interpreted the Georgia line by determining the most northern part of the Savannah river. If the source of the Savannah river is as far north as the 35th parallel, then the 35th parallel became the northern boundary line Georgia. It was further reasoned that if the southern boundary line of North Carolina coincided with the northern boundary line of Georgia there could be no South Carolina land between them. South Carolina contended that the Savannah River extended only to the junction of the Tugaloo and the Keowee. South Carolina then claimed land from this point to the 35°.

South Carolina and Georgia attempted by the historically known Beaufort conference of April 24-28, 1787, to reconcile the claim of the two states, but with little success. The legislative Act of South Carolina, dated March 8, 1787, directed the Congressional delegates of South Carolina in the Federal Congress to cede to the United States the South Carolina claim to all lands between the 35° and the source of the southern branch of the Tugaloo. \*\*\*At the Beaufort Conference the northern branch of the Tugaloo was fixed as the southern boundary claim of South Carolina, so later the South Carolina delegates on August 9, (1787) executed a deed of cession to the United States. The Legislature of Georgia on January 1, 1788, confirmed the Beaufort agreement and on February 1, following, voted to cede to the United States the claims of Georgia to all lands west of the

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\*Mississippi Valley Historical Review, Vol. 12, No. 3, Page 376

\*\*F. M. Thorpe in the *Federal and State Constitutions*, Washington, 1909, Vol. II, Page 765

\*\*\*Journals of American Congress, Vol. V.

Chattahoochee, one of the conditions being to "guarantee and secure to Georgia" the Beaufort boundary. Congress refused to accept the cession except conditionally. Georgia continued to regard lands west of the Chattahoochee as hers as evidenced by the Yazoo grants and the formation of a half dozen land companies, all of whom were speculating in that land north of  $32^{\circ}28'$  both in Mississippi and Alabama. The Territory south of the Ohio was organized in 1790 and subsequently became the State of Tennessee and apparently the United States Government regarded the South Carolina cession of years previous, as valid and so held it, for when the Mississippi Territory was created in 1798, it was to contain land west of the Chattahoochee, north of  $31^{\circ}$  and south of the South Carolina cession. You will, therefore, see that the United States did not claim and did not formally include this South Carolina strip to the Mississippi River, in the Mississippi Territorial boundary and by not doing so, prevented an orderly government established in the extreme northern part of what is now Mississippi and Alabama. Because of continued complaints, the United States in 1802, came to an agreement with Georgia about the northern and western boundaries of the State and in that agreement, Georgia ceded to the United States "all right, title and claim which the said States has to the jurisdiction and soil of the land situated within the boundaries of the United States, south of the State of Tennessee."

Thus, as the State of Tennessee boundary never extended any further than the  $35^{\circ}$  and South Carolina and Georgia had both withdrawn from that claimed strip west to the Mississippi, it may seem that as the United States after 1802, recognized this as Mississippi Territorial land, we can legally assume that the  $35^{\circ}$  of North Latitude is constitutionally as well as legislatively, the northern boundary line of Alabama.

Contradicting this the U. S. Geological Survey Reconnaissance Map, Ala-Ga-Tenn, Stevenson Sheet, surveyed in 1884, edition of January 1895, reprinted January 1910, and Geological Survey map, Scale 1 to 500 000, A.S.P.C. reprint of 1936, both

official and the latest data available, fix the north line of the corner of Alabama and Georgia more than a mile south of the 35th°. On neither map is that bend of the Tennessee River nearest the Nickajack cave even shown, except that the former places Nickajack Cave half a mile inside, north of the Tennessee line and east of the Alabama-Georgia line where you extend the line straight into Tennessee, then not within one mile of the river, which is not figured in this map. There is hardly any probability that the river has changed its course as the cave is 636 feet above sea level and the corner post of the State 925 feet above.

Another official map, U. S. Geological Survey, T.V.A. edition, Shellmound Quadrangle, field examination 1936, verified by aerial photography, shows the State corner one mile south of the river and the Nickajack Cave about fifteen hundred feet (at least one-fourth of a mile) west of a line, did you project it, from the corner to the bank of the Tennessee River which here bends south to touch the 35° of Latitude, the official legal line of the State of Tennessee.

